

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 3, 1996

**GLYNN CARVER
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (504) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
OCTOBER 3, 1996

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Chairman Glynn Carver presiding.

Jerald Hanchey
Perry Gisclair
Joseph Cormier
Daniel Babin
Jeff Schneider

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Edmund McIlhenny was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Carver called for a motion for approval of the **September 9, 1996 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Gisclair and seconded by Commissioner Cormier. The motion passed with no opposition.

Presentation by the Natural Registry Program began with Ms. Lisa Creasman thanking the Department and Commission for the opportunity to recognize three new members of the program. The Natural Registry Program was created by legislation to be a partnership between the Department and the Nature Conservancy. The program was established to recognize the excellent management and stewardship of landowners that have natural areas in Louisiana. Ms. Creasman then explained what she felt were the two reasons why the program was so successful. The first members to be recognized were Dale & Jim Robertson from Abita Springs who own three acres of pine, flatwood savannah. Mr. Robertson stated they were pleased with the program and are honored to be a part of it. The second members were Marianna & Oren Ritter who own 80 acres of pine and hardwood forest area in Rapides Parish. Ms. Ritter stated the family's appreciation for providing the opportunity to preserve a small portion of the world. Dupont, Dupont Dow was the last new member to be recognized. This business has enrolled 125 acres of lands that occur within the levees of the Mississippi River and are important to neotropical birds, wading birds and waterfowl as well as other animals. Mr. Marty Guedry, representing Dupont, Dupont Dow stated that dedication of land to wildlife habitat is important and that the benefits gained from this land have generated a lot of positive feedback from the employees. Ms. Creasman thanked the Department for being partners in the program and looked forward to working with the Department and landowners in the future.

Mr. Hugh Bateman presented the next item, **Brush Control Project at Catahoula Lake**. He began by showing slides that would

bring everyone up to date on how the Department has been managing the lake. Every July 1 the lake is dewatered, provided the river systems are low enough, exposing the mud flats to sunlight. This allows the vegetation in the lake to develop. Approximately 95 percent of the plants that grow on the lake bed produces food for migratory birds. As many as 400,000 ducks could visit the lake during a season. When the lake is being refilled, hunters return to the lake and put up blinds and decoys. Hundreds of cattle and hogs also use the lake. Non-desirable woody plants in the lake bed has been one of the most serious ecological problems the Department has had to deal with. Mr. Bateman, at this point, explained how this problem has been dealt with since 1953, with use of a bulldozer, aerial herbicide application and mechanical harvesting. In 1996, a partnership program was developed to provide mechanical removal of the plants. It was hoped approximately 3,000 acres would be treated by the end of the project which should be around the first of November. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as other businesses and private individuals provided their support for the project at the onset. However, the Service notified the Department they would not be able to participate in the project just prior to the project getting started. Their reason was, they felt it would create a baiting situation for ducks on Catahoula Lake. The Department staff discussed the project and decided to proceed. Mr. Bateman stated he has received a lot of support from everyone that has been out on the lake to see what was being done. He then asked the Commission to pass a resolution that would get them involved in what was occurring on the lake. Chairman Carver asked if anyone was attending the meeting representing the Fish & Wildlife Service. Hearing no response, Commissioner Schneider asked if any hunters have ever been charged with baiting when they have cleared a portion of Catahoula Lake and set up a blind and how long has this procedure been followed? Then he asked if the Service was changing their interpretation of the law or did the law change? Mr. Bateman explained how the interpretation of baiting needed to be redefined and then explained three options the Fish and Wildlife Service has. The first was they could close Catahoula Lake down completely to hunting. The second option was to do nothing. And, the third option was to come to the lake and write citations for shooting over baited fields. Chairman Carver stated he has spent many hours hunting ducks on Catahoula Lake and appreciated the impact the lake has had for Louisiana. Then he stated there may be a Civil War if the Federal Government tried to shut the lake down.

Mr. Richard Yancey stated he endorsed what Mr. Bateman said and asked the Commission to pass a resolution commending the Department on their accomplishments with Catahoula Lake. Mr. Yancey then explained three major problems he incurred when he was employed as a biologist working on Catahoula Lake. These problems included a major plant succession, possibility of impounding the lake and lead poisoning. He felt the primary problem on Catahoula Lake was the interpretation of the federal baiting regulations and

suggested a total overhaul on the definition. The issue of baiting was undermining the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, stated Mr. Yancey.

Mr. Bateman read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Babin. The motion passed with no opposition. Chairman Carver stated Ducks Unlimited would be in trouble if the Fish & Wildlife Service enforced the baiting regulations.

Mr. Richard Dunham suggested the Commission write its own definition of baiting and then present it to the Federal Government so there could be a compromise on this issue. Chairman Carver stated meetings were already being held at the federal and state level on this subject.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
October 3, 1996

- WHEREAS,** Catahoula Lake is a state owned waterbody and was recognized internationally in 1991 under the RAMSAR Convention for its great importance to migratory birds, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has management authority vested by state law, and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake is a popular area for both hunting and fishing for thousands of Louisiana citizens each year, and
- WHEREAS,** the historic seasonal flooding and drying cycles are the key to producing the thousands of acres of grasses and sedges that serve as food for migratory birds, and
- WHEREAS,** the Department and Commission have been instrumental in maintaining the natural hydraulic water patterns of this wetland in cooperation with the COE and FWS, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, with support from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, has invested thousands of dollars over the past 43 years to control by mechanical and chemical means the invasion of woody vegetation of no value to wildlife, and that would otherwise smother out expansive areas of grasslands valuable to migratory birds, and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has secured both financial and on-site assistance from numerous partners to mechanically control 3,000 acres of invading woody vegetation on the perimeter of Catahoula Lake, and

WHEREAS, as this conservation project will restore and encourage the growth of desired sedges and grasses valuable to waterfowl on these 3,000 acres in future years, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve and endorse the brush control project undertaken by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and its partners in 1996 at Catahoula Lake, and urges the Fish and Wildlife Service to actively participate in this wetland management endeavor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any legal actions by the Fish and Wildlife Service resulting from this brush removal project that causes cessation of the project, the closure of the Lake to waterfowl hunting, or enforcement action against citizens who will hunt there this fall are viewed by the Commission and Department as counter to the objectives and goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Glynn Carver, Chairman
La. Wildlife & Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

The Red River WMA Lottery Waterfowl Hunt was presented by Mr. Dave Morrison. A proposal for a lottery waterfowl hunt was presented and approved by the Commission and implemented in the Hunting Regulations for the WMAs. Duck blinds have been purchased and installed and decoys purchased for these hunts. A total of 350 applications were received for the lottery and the drawing would occur following the Commission Meeting. A total of 10 hunting days would occur this year with a total of 52 applicants being selected. Mr. Morrison explained how the drawing would occur with an additional 4 applicants being drawn as alternates. Hunters would be given until November 1, 1996 to submit a check for \$75 for the blinds.

Chairman Carver then called for Public Comments on 1997 Spring Turkey-Hunting Season Proposals and none were heard.

Ratify Membership of Disabled Hunter Review Board and Ratify Membership of Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee was handled by Mr. Tommy Prickett. This item was presented again at this meeting due to technical reasons and timing of the printing of the State Register. Mr. Prickett then asked the Commissioners to vote again

on the Resolution. He read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Schneider. This motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

DISABLED HUNTER REVIEW BOARD
DISABLED HUNTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in accordance with the provisions of Act 1226 of the 1995 Legislature has promulgated rules for issuing three classes of disabled hunter permits, and

WHEREAS, the rules require that each application be approved by the Disabled Hunter Review Board before being issued, and

WHEREAS, the Disabled Hunter Review Board shall consist of five members to be selected by the Commission with recommendations from the Louisiana Outdoorsmen with Disabilities, Inc. (two recommendations), Louisiana Handicapped Sportsmen, Inc. (two recommendations), and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (one recommendation), and

WHEREAS, the rules also require that each application that is rejected during the review process shall be forwarded to a Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee for final determination, and

WHEREAS, this committee shall consist of five members selected by the Commission with recommendations from the Louisiana Outdoorsmen with Disabilities, Inc., the Louisiana Handicapped Sportsmen, Inc., the Wildlife Division, the Enforcement Division and the Commission, and

WHEREAS, these recommendations have been received by the Commission.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Carl F. Plaisance, Ms. Jeannie I. Williamson, Mr. Timothy B. Guillory, Mr. Wayne Blackwell and Mr. David Moreland are appointed to the Disabled Hunter Review Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mr. Glynn Carver, Mr. Winton Vidrine or his designee, Mr. Thomas Prickett or his designee, Mr.

Gary M. Carpenter and Mr. Fleming J. Trosclair, Jr., are appointed to the Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee.

Glynn Carver, Chairman
La. Wildlife & Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

Col. Winton Vidrine stated the **Goose Creeping** item would be discussed and then at the next meeting, a Notice of Intent would be presented to repeal the regulation. Chairman Carver then asked for public comments.

Mr. David Boudreaux, Crowley, stated he was one of the original instigators that prepared the regulation back in the 1970's. At the November 1994 Commission Meeting, the Commission mandated a committee be formed to discuss the regulation and come up with a commendation. The latest meeting was held in June 1996 and the consensus was to meet the latter part of October and then prepare a new regulation to present at the May 1997 Commission Meeting. Mr. Boudreaux felt the need to keep the regulation because of the increased goose hunting pressure. Commissioner Babin asked who was on the Committee? Chairman Carver asked when was the committee appointed and are all members active and available?

Mr. Steve Oates, Lafayette, reminded the Commissioners that at the last meeting, Enforcement personnel recommended that the goose creeping regulation be repealed. Mr. Oates felt the population for geese has gotten out of control and this could result in destruction of the tundra in Canada. He then stated the solution would be to increase the bag limits and repeal the goose creeping regulation. He then asked for biological management of the resource before a massive natural die-off occurs. Mr. Oates then recommended the Commission repeal the regulation. Commissioner Babin asked how many people are involved in goose creeping? Commissioner Babin then stated there was a need for biological data that would support the concept of a massive die-off.

Chairman Carver then asked if a biologist was at the meeting that knew about geese? Mr. Robert Helm stated the information presented by Mr. Oates on goose populations was true, particularly with the snow geese. Chairman Carver asked if there was an over population in Louisiana? Mr. Helm stated there was an over population, and the numbers are increasing dramatically. The population problems are evident on the breeding grounds where the habitat is sensitive to change. Mr. Helm stated he has been meeting with Canadians and people from the United States and discussing some of the concerns with the snow geese. Commissioner Schneider stated he has not heard any discussion that shows the creeping regulation was causing a problem. Chairman Carver asked what was the problem with the law, was the enforcing of the law

very difficult and was the rule from the legislature? Then he asked Col. Vidrine if the enforcement agents were making any attempt to enforce the regulation? Col. Vidrine stated the rule was not enforceable. Commissioner Babin stated he was hearing two stories - one, an enforcement problem and two, a biological problem. Then he asked why was the problem not being presented from a biological standpoint but only from an enforcement standpoint. Commissioner Babin stated he understands that the law may not be a very well written law but he did not understand that all of a sudden there may be a catastrophic kill of geese. Commissioner Schneider asked why are there so many more geese today and what changed? Mr. Helm stated it was related to the vast changes in habitat from Canada on south. Chairman Carver stated he felt everyone was for goose creeping, but he has not been able to locate the problem. Then he asked if the regulation needed to be repealed. Commissioner Cormier stated from a law enforcement standpoint, he was not inclined to reverse laws. Then he asked if the Committee Mr. Boudreaux referred to could come up with a regulation that would be enforceable and would prevent the slaughtering of geese? Col. Vidrine stated this was a possibility. Commissioner Schneider asked how does someone regulate how many geese a shot hits? Mr. Oates explained bag limits would replace the goose creeping regulation if it was repealed. Also explained was why the goose creeping regulation came about.

Chairman Carver stated, even if action was taken at the meeting, it would not be in effect for the 1996 goose season. He suggested Mr. Boudreaux and his Committee meet with the biologists and make a recommendation before the season next year. Mr. Boudreaux explained why the Committee did not meet as often as it should have during 1995, but he assured the Commissioners they intend to have something ready for the May 1997 Commission Meeting.

Mr. Carl Gremillion stated he has attended every meeting the Committee has had and that every recommendation from those meetings was to take the regulation off the books. Mr. Gremillion stated Mr. Dave Hall, the instigator of the ban, attended their first meeting and recommended the goose creeping ban be removed. Another reason for the ban, according to Mr. Gremillion, was to control trespassing. Chairman Carver again stated the regulation could not be removed for this hunting season and the issue would be addressed before the 1997 season. Commissioner Babin asked if the trespassing problems changed since the goose creeping went into effect? With the answer being no, Commissioner Babin then stated if the creeping ban was removed, the initial problem would continue. Secretary Jenkins suggested the Chairman ask the attorneys if anything could be done for this season. Mr. Don Puckett stated unless this was an emergency situation, it would be a 90 to 120 day rulemaking process. Chairman Carver asked the Committee to meet, and the biologist to get with the Commissioners and try to resolve the problem.

The Monthly Law Enforcement Report for September was given by Col. Winton Vidrine. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of September.

Region I - Minden - 97 citations.

Region II - Monroe - 79 citations.

Region III - Alexandria - 96 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 43 citations.

Region V - Lake Charles - 146 citations.

Region VI - Opelousas - 102 citations.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 147 citations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 236 citations.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 250 citations.

Oyster Strike Force - 112 citations.

Statewide Strike Force - 62 citations.

Offshore Boats (SWEP) - 17 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of September was 1,387. A shrimp activity report was also included in the packets.

An Enforcement Aviation Report was also given by Col. Winton Vidrine. He stated for September 1996, enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 113.8 hours for enforcement and 31.9 hours for the other divisions.

For the next item, **Division Reports**, Mr. Paul Jackson asked Ms. Marianne Marsh to give a report on the success of National Hunting and Fishing Day. Ms. Marsh stated September 28, 1996 was the 25th anniversary of this event on a national basis and Louisiana's 12th anniversary. This event, held in Minden was attended by 2,500 people, Monroe had 3,300 people, Natchitoches had only 100 people and Baton Rouge had 1,800 people. The weather as well as LSU's homecoming were important factors that probably reduced the numbers for the Baton Rouge event. Chairman Carver asked Ms. Marsh to explain the different activities that occurred during the day. Ms. Marsh stated there were over 30 events with approximately 350 volunteers helping. Mr. Fred Parnell totally and completely commended the Department for the excellent function.

Ms. Karen Foote stated Mr. Martin Bourgeois from the Marine Fisheries Division would give a report on the Cocaho Minnow as requested by Commissioner Schneider. Mr. Bourgeois stated the cocaho minnow was most prominent in the Terrebonne-Lafourche parishes. Most of the fishermen in the industry are part-timers supplementing their income between seasons. Full time fishermen retail and wholesale their catches, according to Mr. Bourgeois. Traps used vary, there is no true perfect trap. The preferred bait for the minnow is pogys and the area fished is exclusively the very shallow marsh. The fishermen pick their cages up after 15 to 30 minutes time and the areas utilized are generally small. The standard size is a 3 inch minnow, but sometimes the numbers required at this standard size are not available. One of the problems with the minnows is mortality during the summer months when the water quality is not good. Characteristics of the minnow are they are an annual crop, very vigorous which makes them a preferred bait, can tolerate a wide range of salinities, and spawning occurs from spring through fall. Chairman Carver asked what was the minnow used for? Mr. Bourgeois stated it was used only for bait. At this point, Mr. Bourgeois showed overheads on license sales from 1989 through September 30, 1996, catch effort of cocaho minnow from 1986 through 1995, and catch through the season and size at capture. Chairman Carver asked if there has been a dollar value placed on the industry? Mr. Bourgeois stated the live bait industry was a growing business. Commissioner Schneider stated he has received complaints that these fish may be overfished and asked if overfishing could occur in one small local area? Then he asked if there was a biological problem and what was the approximate value for the minnow? Commissioner Gisclair stated, from what he was told, the fishermen and minnows were there but the minnows would not go into the cages to be trapped.

The next report on the September teal season was given by Mr. Robert Helm. The teal season began in 1968 or 1969 and ran until 1988 when there was no season for three years. Thirty percent of the waterfowl hunters participated in the teal season and bagged 120,000 blue-winged teal. Expectations for this year were very high based on the good reports from the breeding grounds. An increase of 15 percent in the numbers of waterfowl hunters occurred last year. Half of Louisiana's harvest of teal will occur during the 9 day September season, stated Mr. Helm. Three consecutive years of good habitat to the north have occurred and there is a good possibility for a fourth year. In spring, 1996, one of the most severe droughts for southwest Louisiana occurred and this caused good vegetation to grow for the ducks. Mr. Helm described the 1996 hunting success as spotty. The rice fields were the most consistent and successful and the southwest marshes were slow. The cooler weather that came through the State before the last weekend of the season increased hunting success. To summarize, Mr. Helm felt the season was moderately successful and very enjoyable.

Mr. David Moreland gave an update on the Deer Management Assistance Program. A packet of information was provided to the Commissioners. A slide presentation was given at this point. During the 1995-96 season, approximately 200,000 hunters harvested 237,000 deer which amounted to about 3.3 million man-days. Most of the land in Louisiana is either leased or posted so hunting was restricted to permission from landowners, or hunting club members. Otherwise, hunters would be restricted to the public lands and federal refuges. Several slides of deer harvested on the wildlife management areas was shown. The DMAP program began in 1979-80 and 1980-81 on an experimental basis, and went statewide in 1981-82. The DMAP program is geared toward harvesting does on those lands of at least 500 acres in size. A \$25 registration fee plus \$.05 per acre is charged for the program. In addition to harvesting does, the DMAP program is geared toward managing of the lands for habitat, stated Mr. Moreland. The river bottom areas produce the best habitat and the largest deer. A chart was shown which displayed the number of DMAP clubs and deer harvested from 1981-82 to this past year. Information is obtained from deer harvested through the DMAP program. For the DMAP clubs to produce trophy or quality deer, they need to manage the herd and allow them to get some age on them. Also, it is important that the seasons be established during the deer's active breeding seasons. A major problem that needs to be addressed is recruitment of the younger hunters in order for hunting to move forward. Then Mr. Moreland explained what was occurring on lands less than 500 acres in size. He anticipated the 1996-97 season to be good if the weather cooperated. Chairman Carver asked if the drought was affecting the deer herd? Mr. Moreland felt it was not hurting the deer.

Chairman Carver then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mrs. Stephanie LeBlanc stated she was concerned with the enforcement powers being taken away from the refuge and wildlife management area personnel. Her husband works at Pass-a-Loutre and Mrs. LeBlanc felt this took away his privilege to carry a firearm. She explained, at this point, several incidences that have occurred on several areas. Over a thousand citations have been issued in Plaquemines Parish alone and she felt those violators were happy that Mr. LeBlanc does not carry a gun. Mrs. LeBlanc felt there were ways to resolve this situation, but it was not good timing to do away with enforcement authority at the peak of the hunting season. She then informed the Commissioners of a lawsuit filed against the Department of which her husband was a part but which did not stop him from doing his work. Mrs. LeBlanc asked the Commissioners for their help in stopping the issue at hand.

Mr. Richard Yancey began by stating he endorsed everything Mrs. LeBlanc said and urged the action of stripping enforcement powers be rescinded. He felt it would harm the wildlife, would damage the refuge and wildlife management area programs and would be demoralizing to the employees who could not stop an illegal activity. Mr. Yancey stated one of the main programs he strived

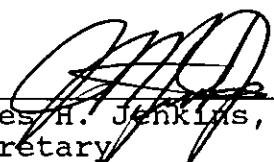
for during his career was the development, creation and expansion of the refuge and wildlife management area program. He then explained how this program has continued over the years and how it has contributed to Louisiana having the most successful wildlife management area and refuge program in the Nation. Mr. Yancey felt a long step backwards has taken place in the managing of the lands with the removal of enforcement powers. If the action was not rescinded, there would be less protection and poor management for wildlife on the lands.

Chairman Carver stated he did not know if this was a Commission responsibility, but asked Secretary Jenkins if he would like to defend his action. Mr. Don Puckett asked that since this item was not on the agenda, a vote should be taken to discuss the subject. Chairman Carver stated personally, he would like to have this item on the November agenda along with an Executive Session since he has not had the opportunity to review the material he was given. Commissioner Cormier asked if this was a Commission item? Chairman Carver stated the Commission did not have to take any action. Commissioner Gisclair stated he learned of the action when he read Bob Marshall's article and wanted to learn more of the reasons why this was done. He also stated he received calls from legislators, employees and other citizens and was concerned with Pointe-au-Chien. Commissioner Gisclair also asked the item be placed on the November agenda with an Executive Session and that a copy of the lawsuit Mrs. LeBlanc referred to be placed in the mail.

Mr. Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, stated he would like a greater explanation of the reasons for the removal of enforcement powers. He also felt the discussion should be in a public forum so everyone could hear all of the pros and cons. Commissioner Gisclair stated a pending lawsuit could not be discussed in an open forum, it would have to be in Executive Session. Mr. Puckett recommended the Secretary explain his actions but there was a Hearing set for October 25, 1996 to discuss the merits of the action taken. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the Commissioners could go into Executive Session the day of the meeting? Chairman Carver suggested the Commissioners go into Executive Session at 10 AM on November 7 and the regular meeting continue at 11 AM. Commissioner Schneider put that suggestion in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gisclair and passed with no opposition. Mr. Joe Macaluso stated before the Commissioners could go into Executive Session, the meeting would have to be called to order. Then he stated he would challenge the Executive Session.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **February 1997 Meeting** on Thursday, February 6, 1997 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Baton Rouge office.

There being no further business, Commissioner Gisclair made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Cormier.



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
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Draft
Corrections made
10/23/96 - sch

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(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
October 3, 1996

- WHEREAS,** Catahoula Lake is a state owned waterbody and was recognized internationally in 1991 under the RAMSAR Convention for its great importance to migratory birds, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has management authority vested by state law, and
- WHEREAS,** the Lake is a popular area for both hunting and fishing for thousands of Louisiana citizens each year, and
- WHEREAS,** the historic seasonal flooding and drying cycles are the key to producing the thousands of acres of grasses and sedges that serve as food for migratory birds, and
- WHEREAS,** the Department and Commission have been instrumental in maintaining the natural hydraulic water patterns of this wetland in cooperation with the COE and FWS, and
- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, with support from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, has invested thousands of dollars over the past 43 years to control by mechanical and chemical means the invasion of woody vegetation of no value to wildlife,

and that would otherwise smother out expansive areas of grasslands valuable to migratory birds, and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has secured both financial and on-site assistance from numerous partners to mechanically control 3,000 acres of invading woody vegetation on the perimeter of Catahoula Lake, and

WHEREAS, as this conservation project will restore and encourage the growth of desired sedges and grasses valuable to waterfowl on these 3,000 acres in future years, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve and endorse the brush control project undertaken by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and its partners in 1996 at Catahoula Lake, and urges the Fish and Wildlife Service to actively participate in this wetland management endeavor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any legal actions by the Fish and Wildlife Service resulting from this brush removal project that causes cessation of the project, the closure of the Lake to waterfowl hunting, or enforcement action against citizens who will hunt there this fall are viewed by the Commission and Department as counter to the objectives and goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Glynn Carver, Chairman
La. Wildlife & Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

The Red River WMA Lottery Waterfowl Hunt was presented by Mr. Dave Morrison. A proposal for a lottery waterfowl hunt was presented and approved by the Commission and implemented in the Hunting Regulations for the WMAs. Duck blinds have been purchased and installed ~~as well as the purchasing of decoys~~ for these hunts. A total of 350 applications were received for the lottery and the drawing would occur following the Commission Meeting. A total of 10 hunting days would occur this year with a total of 52 applicants being selected. Mr. Morrison explained how the drawing would occur with an additional 4 applicants being drawn ~~serving as alternates.~~ Hunters would be given until November 1, 1996 to submit a check for \$75 for the blinds.

AND decoys purchased

Chairman Carver then called for Public Comments on 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season Proposals and none were heard.

Ratify Membership of Disabled Hunter Review Board and Ratify Membership of Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee was handled by

Mr. Tommy Prickett. This item was presented again at this meeting due to technical reasons and timing of the printing of the State Register. Mr. Prickett then asked the Commissioners to vote again on the Resolution. He read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Schneider. This motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

DISABLED HUNTER REVIEW BOARD
DISABLED HUNTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in accordance with the provisions of Act 1226 of the 1995 Legislature has promulgated rules for issuing three classes of disabled hunter permits, and
- WHEREAS,** the rules require that each application be approved by the Disabled Hunter Review Board before being issued, and
- WHEREAS,** the Disabled Hunter Review Board shall consist of five members to be selected by the Commission with recommendations from the Louisiana Outdoorsmen with Disabilities, Inc. (two recommendations), Louisiana Handicapped Sportsmen, Inc. (two recommendations), and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (one recommendation), and
- WHEREAS,** the rules also require that each application that is rejected during the review process shall be forwarded to a Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee for final determination, and
- WHEREAS,** this committee shall consist of five members selected by the Commission with recommendations from the Louisiana Outdoorsmen with Disabilities, Inc., the Louisiana Handicapped Sportsmen, Inc., the Wildlife Division, the Enforcement Division and the Commission, and
- WHEREAS,** these recommendations have been received by the Commission.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that Mr. Carl F. Plaisance, Ms. Jeannie I. Williamson, Mr. Timothy B. Guillory, Mr. Wayne Blackwell and Mr. David Moreland are appointed to the Disabled Hunter Review Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mr. Glynn Carver, Mr. Winton Vidrine or his designee, Mr. Thomas Prickett or his designee, Mr. Gary M. Carpenter and Mr. Fleming J. Trosclair, Jr., are appointed to the Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee.

Glynn Carver, Chairman
La. Wildlife & Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

Col. Winton Vidrine stated the **Goose Creeping** item would be discussed and then at the next meeting, a Notice of Intent would be presented to repeal the regulation. Chairman Carver then asked for public comments.

Mr. David Boudreaux, Crowley, stated he was one of the original instigators that prepared the regulation back in the 1970's. At the November 1994 Commission Meeting, the Commission mandated a committee be formed to discuss the regulation and come up with a recommendation. The latest meeting was held in June 1996 and the consensus was to meet the latter part of October and then prepare a new regulation to present at the May 1997 Commission Meeting. Mr. Boudreaux felt the need to keep the regulation ~~with~~ ^{because of} the increased goose hunting pressure. Commissioner Babin asked who was on the Committee? Chairman Carver asked when was the committee appointed and are all members active and available?

Mr. Steve Oates, Lafayette, reminded the Commissioners that at the last meeting, Enforcement personnel recommended that the goose creeping regulation be repealed. Mr. Oates felt the population for geese has gotten out of control and this could result in destruction of the tundra in Canada. He then stated the solution would be to increase the bag limits and repeal the goose creeping regulation. He then asked for biological management of the resource before a massive ~~kill-off~~ ^{NATURAL} occurs. Mr. Oates then recommended the Commission repeal the regulation. Commissioner Babin asked how many people are involved in goose creeping? Commissioner Babin then stated there was a need for biological data that would support the concept of a massive ~~die-off~~ ^{die}.

Chairman Carver then asked if a biologist was at the meeting that knew about geese? Mr. Robert Helm stated the information presented by Mr. Oates on goose populations was true, particularly with the snow geese. Chairman Carver asked if there was an over population in Louisiana? Mr. Helm stated there was an over population, and the numbers are increasing dramatically. The population problems are evident on the breeding grounds where the habitat is sensitive to change. Mr. Helm stated he has been meeting with Canadians and people from the United States and discussing some of the concerns with the snow geese. Commissioner Schneider stated he has not heard any discussion that shows the creeping regulation was causing a problem. Chairman Carver asked

what was the problem with the law, was the enforcing of the law very difficult and was the rule from the legislature? Then he asked Col. Vidrine if the Enforcement agents were making any attempt to enforce the regulation? Col. Vidrine stated the rule was not enforceable. Commissioner Babin stated he was hearing two stories - one, an enforcement problem and two, a biological problem. Then he asked why was the problem not being presented from a biological standpoint but only from an enforcement standpoint. Commissioner Babin stated he understands that the law may not be a very well written law but he did not understand that all of a sudden there may be a catastrophic ~~kill~~ ^{50x} of geese. Commissioner Schneider asked why are there so many more geese today and what changed? Mr. Helm stated it was related to the vast changes in habitat from Canada on south. Chairman Carver stated he felt everyone was for goose creeping, but ~~has not been able to~~ ^{he} locate the problem. Then he asked if the regulation needed to be repealed. Commissioner Cormier stated from a law enforcement standpoint, he was not inclined to reverse laws. Then he asked if the Committee Mr. Boudreaux referred to could come up with a regulation that would be enforceable and would prevent the slaughtering of geese? Col. Vidrine stated this was a possibility. Commissioner Schneider asked how does someone regulate how many geese a shot hits? Mr. Oates explained bag limits would replace the goose creeping regulation if it was repealed. Also explained was why the goose creeping regulation came about.

Chairman Carver stated ~~even~~ if action was taken at the meeting, it would not be in effect for the 1996 goose season. He suggested Mr. Boudreaux and his Committee meet with the biologists and make a recommendation before the season next year. Mr. Boudreaux explained why the Committee did not meet as often as it should have during 1995. But he assured the Commissioners they intend to have something ready for the May 1997 Commission Meeting.

Mr. Carl Gremillion stated he has attended every meeting the Committee has had and that every recommendation from those meetings was to take the regulation off the books. Mr. Gremillion stated Mr. Dave Hall, the instigator of the ban, attended their first meeting and recommended the goose creeping ban be removed. Another reason for the ban, according to Mr. Gremillion, was to control trespassing. Chairman Carver again stated the regulation could not be removed for this hunting season and the issue would be addressed before the 1997 season. Commissioner Babin asked if the trespassing problems changed since the goose creeping went into effect? With the answer being no, Commissioner Babin then stated if the creeping ban was removed, ~~then~~ ^{to} the initial problem would continue. Secretary Jenkins suggested the Chairman ask the attorneys if anything could be done for this season. Mr. Don Puckett stated unless this was an emergency situation, it would be a 90 to 120 day rulemaking process. Chairman Carver asked the Committee to meet, ^{And} the biologist get with the Commissioners and try to resolve the problem.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for September** was given by Col. Winton Vidrine. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of September.

Region I - Minden - 97 citations.

Region II - Monroe - 79 citations.

Region III - Alexandria - 96 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 43 citations.

Region V - Lake Charles - 146 citations.

Region VI - Opelousas - 102 citations.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 147 citations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 236 citations.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 250 citations.

Oyster Strike Force - 112 citations.

Statewide Strike Force - 62 citations.

Offshore Boats (SWEP) - 17 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of September was 1,387. A shrimp activity report was also included in the packets.

An Enforcement Aviation Report was also given by Col. Winton Vidrine. He stated for September 1996, enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 113.8 hours for enforcement and 31.9 hours for the other divisions.

For the next item, **Division Reports**, Mr. Paul Jackson asked Ms. Marianne Marsh to give a report on the success of National Hunting and Fishing Day. Ms. Marsh stated September 28, 1996 was the 25th anniversary of this event on a national basis and Louisiana's 12th anniversary. This event held in Minden was attended by 2,500 people, Monroe had 3,300 people, Natchitoches had only 100 people and Baton Rouge had 1,800 people. The weather as well as LSU's homecoming were important factors that probably reduced the numbers for the Baton Rouge event. Chairman Carver asked Ms. Marsh to explain the different activities that occurred during the day. Ms. Marsh stated there were over 30 events with approximately 350 volunteers helping. Mr. Fred Parnell totally and completely commended the Department for the excellent function.

Ms. Karen Foote stated Mr. Martin Bourgeois from the Marine Fisheries Division would give a report on the Cocaho Minnow as requested by Commissioner Schneider. Mr. Bourgeois stated the cocaho minnow was most prominent in the Terrebonne-Lafourche parishes. Most of the fishermen in the industry are part-timers supplementing their income ~~in~~ between seasons. Full time fishermen retail and wholesale their catches, according to Mr. Bourgeois. Traps used vary, there is no true perfect trap. The preferred bait for the minnow is pogys and the area fished is exclusively the very shallow marsh. The fishermen pick their cages up after 15 to 30 minutes time and the areas utilized are generally small. The standard size is a 3 inch minnow, but sometimes the numbers required at this standard size are not available. One of the problems with the minnows is mortality during the summer months when the water quality is not good. Characteristics of the minnow are they are an annual crop, very vigorous which makes them a preferred bait, can tolerate a wide range of salinities, and spawning occurs from spring through fall. Chairman Carver asked what was the minnow used for? Mr. Bourgeois stated it was used only for bait. At this point, Mr. Bourgeois showed overheads on license sales from 1989 through September 30, 1996, catch effort of cocaho minnow from 1986 through 1995, and catch through the season and size at capture. Chairman Carver asked if there has been a dollar value placed on the industry? Mr. Bourgeois stated the live bait industry was a growing business. Commissioner Schneider stated he has received complaints that these fish may be overfished and asked if overfishing could occur in one small local area? Then he asked if there was a biological problem and what was the approximate value for the minnow? Commissioner Gisclair stated ~~from what he was told, the fishermen and minnows were there but the minnows would not go into the cages to be trapped.~~

The next report on the September teal season was given by Mr. Robert Helm. The teal season began in 1968 or 1969 and ran until 1988 when there was no season for three years. Thirty percent of the waterfowl hunters participated in the teal season and bagged 120,000 blue-winged teal. Expectations for this year ~~was~~ ^{were} very high based on the good reports from the breeding grounds. An increase of 15 percent in the numbers of waterfowl hunters occurred last year. Half of Louisiana's harvest of teal will occur during the 9 day September season, ^{have} ~~stated~~ Mr. Helm. Three consecutive years of good habitat to the north ~~has~~ occurred and there is a good possibility for a fourth year. In spring, 1996, one of the most ^{severe} ~~severest~~ droughts for southwest Louisiana occurred and this caused good vegetation to grow for the ducks. Mr. Helm described the 1996 hunting success as spotty. The rice fields were the most consistent and successful and the southwest marshes were slow. The cooler weather that came through the State before the last weekend of the season increased hunting success. To summarize, Mr. Helm felt the season was moderately successful and very enjoyable.

Mr. David Moreland gave an update on the Deer Management Assistance Program. A packet of information was provided to the Commissioners. A slide presentation was given at this point. During the 1995-96 season, approximately 200,000 hunters harvested 237,000 deer which amounted to about 3.3 million man-days. Most of the land in Louisiana is either leased or posted so hunting was restricted to permission from landowners, or hunting club members. Otherwise, hunters would be restricted to the public lands and federal refuges. Several slides of deer harvested on the wildlife management areas was shown. The DMAP program began in 1979-80 and 1980-81 on an experimental basis, and went statewide in 1981-82. The DMAP program is geared toward harvesting does on those lands of at least 500 acres in size. A \$25 registration fee plus \$.05 per acre is charged for the program. In addition to harvesting does, the DMAP program is geared toward managing of the lands for habitat, stated Mr. Moreland. The river bottom areas produces the best habitat and the largest deer. A chart was shown which displayed the number of DMAP clubs and deer harvested from 1981-82 season to this past year. Information is obtained from deer harvested through the DMAP program. For the DMAP clubs to produce trophy or quality deer, they need to manage the herd and allow them to get some age on them. Also, it is important that the seasons be established during the deer's active breeding seasons. A major problem that needs to be addressed is recruitment of the younger hunters in order for hunting to move forward. Then Mr. Moreland explained what was occurring on lands less than 500 acres in size. He anticipated the 1996-97 season to be good if the weather cooperated. Chairman Carver asked if the drought was affecting the deer herd? Mr. Moreland felt it was not hurting the deer.

Chairman Carver then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mrs. Stephanie LeBlanc stated she was concerned with the enforcement powers being taken away from the refuge and wildlife management area personnel. Her husband works at Pass-a-Loutre and Mrs. LeBlanc felt this took away his privilege to carry a firearm. She explained, at this point, several incidences that have occurred on several areas. Over a thousand citations have been issued in Plaquemines Parish alone and felt those violators were happy that Mr. LeBlanc does not carry a gun. Mrs. LeBlanc felt there were ways to resolve this situation, but it was not good timing to do away with enforcement authority at the peak of the hunting season. She then informed the Commissioners of a lawsuit filed against the Department of which her husband was a part but which did not stop him from doing his work. Mrs. LeBlanc asked the Commissioners for their help in stopping the issue at hand.

Mr. Richard Yancey began by stating he endorsed everything Mrs. LeBlanc said and urged the action of stripping enforcement powers be rescinded. He felt it would ~~lessen~~ ^{harm} the wildlife, would damage the refuge and wildlife management area programs and would be demoralizing to the employees who could not stop an illegal activity. Mr. Yancey stated one of the main programs he strived

for during his career was the development, creation and expansion of the refuge and wildlife management area program. He then explained how this program has continued over the years and how it has contributed to Louisiana having the most successful wildlife management area and refuge program in the Nation. Mr. Yancey felt a long step backwards has taken place in the managing of the lands with the removal of enforcement powers. If the action was not rescinded, there would be less protection and poor management for wildlife on the lands.

Chairman Carver stated he did not know if this was a Commission responsibility, but asked Secretary Jenkins if he would like to defend his action. Mr. Don Puckett asked that since this item was not on the agenda, a vote should be taken to discuss the subject. Chairman Carver stated personally, he would like to have this item on the November agenda along with an Executive Session since he has not had the opportunity to review the material he was given. Commissioner Cormier asked if this was a Commission item? Chairman Carver stated the Commission did not have to take any action. Commissioner Gisclair stated he learned of the action when he read Bob Marshall's article and wanted to learn more of the reasons why this was done. He also stated he received calls from ~~legislators, employees and other public~~ ^{CITIZENS} and was concerned with Pointe-au-Chien. Commissioner Gisclair also asked the item be placed on the November agenda with an Executive Session and that a copy of the lawsuit Mrs. LeBlanc referred to be placed in the mail.

Mr. Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, stated he would like a greater explanation of the reasons for the removal of enforcement powers. He also felt the discussion should be in a public forum so everyone could hear all of the pros and cons. Commissioner Gisclair stated a pending lawsuit could not be discussed in an open forum, it would have to be in Executive Session. Mr. Puckett recommended the Secretary explain his actions but there was a Hearing set for October 25, 1996 to discuss the merits of the action taken. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the Commissioners could go into Executive Session the day of the meeting? Chairman Carver suggested the Commissioners go into Executive Session at 10 AM on November 7 and the regular meeting continue at 11 AM. Commissioner Schneider put that suggestion in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gisclair and passed with no opposition. Mr. Joe Macaluso stated before the Commissioners could go into Executive Session, the meeting would have to be called to order. Then he stated he would challenge the Executive Session.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **February 1997 Meeting** on Thursday, February 6, 1997 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Baton Rouge office.

There being no further business, Commissioner Gisclair made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Cormier.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Williams will backup Sean Elliott at small forward for the Spurs, ousted from the playoffs in the second round last year by the Utah Jazz.

championship last season. But he and the club squabbled over money, coaching tactics and unexcused absences, and the club released him

Miller would release details, they did not deny published reports that the contract is worth about \$15 million.

more money on the open
NETS' GILL HOSP
DEHYDRATION: In St. I
 Jersey Nets' guard Ker

Nov. 7 forum set on decision to cut agents' powers

By **JOE MACALUSO**
 Advocate outdoors writer

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission scheduled its Nov. 7 meeting as the forum for public comment and to hear Department of Wildlife and Fisheries secretary Jimmy Jenkins Jr. explain why he ordered 75 wildlife management area and wildlife refuge specialists to relinquish enforcement duties on state-owned land.

Jenkins' Oct. 1 order directed the specialists to turn in all law enforcement commissions, state-issued weapons and other enforcement-related items. The directive effectively curtailed on-site enforcement on as many as 50 wildlife management areas and refuges. Only three refuges, Rockefeller, Marsh Island and State Wildlife, were unaffected by the order.

In ordering the item placed on the November meeting's agenda, LWFC chairman Glynn Carver also said the commission would likely have to call an executive session in order to get updates on a suit filed by as many as 19 specialists. The three-year-old suit seeks additional pay for the enforcement duties specialists performed in addition to their duties of maintaining the WMAs and refuges.

Carver said Thursday's regularly scheduled meeting came too quickly after Jenkins' order for the commission to make an informed decision on the matter. Only member Edmund McIlhenny was absent from Thursday's meeting.

Carver and fellow LWFC member Perry Gisclair said they have received numerous calls complaining that the WMAs and refuges were being left without enforcement at a critical time of the year. Statewide squirrel and rabbit seasons open Saturday. Archery season for deer opened Oct. 1, and the gun season for deer and the waterfowl seasons open at various times over the next two months.

During the meeting's public comment period, Stephany LeBlanc

offered a list of rebuttals to Jenkins' 10-item list of reasons for the move. Topping the list is a five-year-old interpretation by the State Office of Risk Management that specialists doubling as enforcement agents opens the state to lawsuits.

LeBlanc's husband is a specialist on the 66,000-acre Pass-a-Loutre Wildlife Management Area in Plaquemines Parish. She said the rebuttals were from a "group of concerned citizens who believe there are other ways to resolve this situation... and not to have enforcement power taken away during the hunting season."

Earlier this week, Jenkins explained that the affected personnel were to call for Enforcement Division agents to handle violations on the WMAs.

LeBlanc said the nearest agents to her husband's WMA are "50 miles away in Belle Chasse and another 20 miles by boat. These men (Pass-a-Loutre specialists) have written 1,000 citations on Pass-a-Loutre and some of the people were not happy to have them."

Richard Yancey, who served as the LDWF's top waterfowl biologist until his retirement in the 1980s, said Jenkins' order, "... dramatically lessens protection for wildlife and lands."

He said he wants the order rescinded.

In other action, the LWFC heard from proponents and opponents to the state's goose-creeping ban and will wait on a recommendation from an ad-hoc committee before opting to keep or rescind the unique state regulation.

It also ratified review and oversight boards to handle new disabled hunter regulations.

GUN SHOW

DENHAM SPRINGS

NORTH PARK REC. CENTER

SAT., OCT. 5 SUN., OCT. 6

9-5 PM 10-5 PM

- FREE PARKING -

BUY • SELL • TRADE

GUNS • KNIVES • RELATED ITEMS

THE PRE-GAME SHOW

A Jon Fine Sports Production

featuring

ALAN RISHER



Cherry Lane Enterprises

PRESENTS

The Advocate



FA

FOOTBALL

WEEKLY WINNER

1st Overall - \$100 - Steve E. Nicholas of Donaldsonville

2nd Overall - Cap - Mike R. Lee of Walker

1st Weekly - \$100 - Michael W. Welch of Baton Rouge

2nd Weekly - Cap - Dan J. Courter of Baton Rouge

1st Random - \$100 - Don P. Haase of Baton Rouge

2nd Random - Cap - Ed W. Leffel of Baton Rouge

Winners! Weekly winners are only eligible to win one time in each category. Second place winners can finish second only one time in each category. Caps plus APDA Pro Football Games will be mailed to home address.

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Personalized Reports & Trading Instructions. If you ordered the \$10 personalized reports, you should receive a letter by October 4. Instructions will be included. Trading period is October 7 - December 31.

Contestants are only given credit for a player's points while they are on their team.

Inquiries! For those who did not order reports, get info on your team. Send your name, address, telephone number and a check for \$2 (payable to Sportsmark, Inc.) to: Fantasy Football c/o The Baton Rouge Advocate, 24178, Tempe, AZ 85285-4178.

PLAYER SCORES

NAME	TEAM	TOT.	WEEK	NAME	TEAM	TOT.	WEEK	NAME
JEFF BLAKE	CIN	56	14	TERRY ALLEN	WAS	107	24	BEN COATES
JOHN ELWAY	DEN	93	25	KI'JANA CARTER	CIN	32	04	QUINN EARLY
BRETT FAVRE	GB	142	33	TERRELL DAVIS	DEN	97	11	JEFF GRAHAM
ERIK KRAMER	CHI	47	00	C. HEYWARD	ATL	06	05	K. JOHNSON
DAN MARINO	MIA	56	00	J. JOHNSON	SF	00	00	O.J. MCDOUFFIE
S. MITCHELL	DET	99	21	ERRICT RHETT	TB	00	00	J.J. STOKES
WARREN MOON	MIN	45	05	T. THOMAS	BUF	45	00	S. SHARPE
STEVE YOUNG	SF	34	00	H. WILLIAMS	OAK	18	00	Y. THIGPEN

TROY AIKMAN	DAL	65	12	MARCUS ALLEN	KC	55	17	BRIAN BLADE
DREW BLEDSOE	NE	73	00	T. BLAKABUTKA	CAR	20	01	VINCENT BRIS
STEVE BONO	KC	88	17	EDDIE GEORGE	HOU	39	05	HENRY ELLAR
JIM EVERETT	NO	72	14	R. HAMPTON	NYG	37	08	BERT EMANUE
JEFF GEORGE	ATL	44	00	AARON HAYDEN	SD	15	02	IRVING FRYAR
S. HUMPHRIES	SD	83	09	A. MURRELL	NYJ	45	18	WILLIE GREEN
JIM KELLY	BUF	34	00	R. SALAAM	CHI	20	15	ROB MOORE
NEIL O'DONNELL	NYJ	68	11	ROBERT SMITH	MIN	62	08	M. JACKSON

DAVE BROWN	NYG	48	07	R. BROOKS	GB	61	00	FRED BARNET
MARK BRUNELL	JAC	114	19	TIM BROWN	OAK	105	17	MARK CHMUR
C. CHANDLER	HOU	76	15	ISAAC BRUCE	STL	68	27	LAKE DAWSON
KERRY COLLINS	CAR	35	09	CHRIS CARTER	MIN	73	11	M. HAYNES
JIM HARBAUGH	IND	73	00	MICHAEL IRVIN	DAL	90	00	JAY NOVACEK
J. HOSTETLER	OAK	56	12	HERMAN MOORE	DET	108	25	ANDRE REED
RICK MIRER	SEA	59	07	CARL PICKENS	CIN	53	06	CHRIS SANDE
V. TESTAVERDE	BAL	77	19	JERRY RICE	SF	78	21	DARNAY SCOT

E. BENNETT	GB	62	11	G. CONWAY	CHI	71	08	M. ANDERSEN
M. FAULK	IND	25	00	J. GALLOWAY	SEA	48	04	CHRIS BONIOL
CURTIS MARTIN	NE	72	00	TONY MARTIN	SD	104	08	JOHN CARNEY
L. PHILLIPS	STL	24	02	T. MATHIS	ATL	56	05	STEVE CHRIST
B. SANDERS	DET	76	10	ERIC METCALF	ATL	42	07	JASON ELAM
EMMITT SMITH	DAL	77	21	A. MILLER	DEN	71	24	JASON HANSO
CHRIS WARREN	SEA	49	23	B. PERRIMAN	DET	50	09	NORM JOHNS
RICKY WATTERS	PHI	98	18	JAKE REED	MIN	77	09	P. STOYANOVIC

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, October 3, 1996
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Glynn Carver (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Perry Gisclair	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Jeff Schneider	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Daniel Babin	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Joseph Cormier	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Jerald Hanchey	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Edmund McIlhenny	<u> </u>	<u>✓</u>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 6 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
October 3, 1996
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of September 9, 1996
3. Presentation by the Natural Registry Program
4. Brush Control Project at Catahoula Lake - Hugh Bateman
5. Red River WMA Lottery Waterfowl Hunt - Dave Morrison
6. Public Comments on 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season Proposals
7. Ratify Membership of Disabled Hunter Review Board and Ratify Membership of Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee - Tommy Prickett
8. Goose Creeping - Winton Vidrine
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/September - Winton Vidrine
10. Division Reports
11. Set February 1997 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjourn

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
October 3, 1996
10:00 AM

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11. Set February 1997 Meeting Date
- ✓12. Public Comments
13. Adjourn

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
October 3, 1996

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake is a state owned water body and was recognized internationally in 1991 under the RAMSAR Convention for its great importance to migratory birds, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has management authority vested by state law, and

WHEREAS, the Lake is a popular area for both hunting and fishing for thousand of Louisiana citizens each year, and

WHEREAS, the historic seasonal flooding and drying cycles are the key to producing the thousands of acres of grasses and sedges that serve as food for migratory birds, and

WHEREAS, the Department and Commission have been instrumental in maintaining the natural hydraulic water patterns of this wetland in cooperation with the COE and FWS, and


WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, with support from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, has invested thousands of dollars over the past 43 years to control by mechanical and chemical means the invasion of woody vegetation of no value to wildlife, and that would otherwise smother out expansive areas of grasslands valuable to migratory birds, and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has secured both financial and on-site assistance from numerous partners to mechanically control 3,000 acres of invading woody vegetation on the perimeter of Catahoula Lake, and

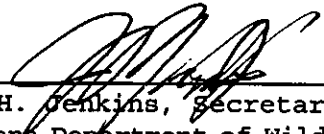
WHEREAS, as this conservation project will restore and encourage the growth of desired sedges and grasses valuable to waterfowl on these 3,000 acres in future years, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve and endorse the brush control project undertaken by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and its partners in 1996 at Catahoula Lake, and urges the Fish and Wildlife Service to actively participate in this wetland management endeavor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any legal actions by the Fish and Wildlife Service resulting from this brush removal project that causes cessation of the project, the closure of the Lake to waterfowl hunting, or enforcement action against citizens who will hunt there this fall are viewed by the Commission and Department as counter to the objectives and goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.



Glynn Carver, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission




James H. Jenkins, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Wildlife
Fisheries


RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

DISABLED HUNTER REVIEW BOARD
DISABLED HUNTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in accordance with the provisions of Act 1226 of the 1995 Legislature has promulgated rules for issuing three classes of disabled hunter permits, and
- WHEREAS,** the rules require that each application be approved by the Disabled Hunter Review Board before being issued, and
- WHEREAS,** the Disabled Hunter Review Board shall consist of five members to be selected by the Commission with recommendations from the Louisiana Outdoorsmen with Disabilities, Inc. (two recommendations), Louisiana Handicapped Sportsmen, Inc. (two recommendations), and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (one recommendation), and
- WHEREAS,** the rules also require that each application that is rejected during the review process shall be forwarded to a Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee for final determination, and
- WHEREAS,** this committee shall consist of five members selected by the Commission with recommendations from the Louisiana Outdoorsmen with Disabilities, Inc., the Louisiana Handicapped Sportsmen, Inc., the Wildlife Division, the Enforcement Division and the Commission, and
- WHEREAS,** these recommendations have been received by the Commission.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that Mr. Carl F. Plaisance, Ms. Jeannie I. Williamson, Mr. Timothy B. Guillory, Mr. Wayne Blackwell and Mr. David Moreland are appointed to the Disabled Hunter Review Board.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Mr. Glynn Carver, Mr. Winton Vidrine or his designee, Mr. Thomas Prickett or his designee, Mr. Gary M. Carpenter and Mr. Fleming J. Trosclair, Jr., are appointed to the Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee.



Glynn Carver, Chairman
La. Wildlife & Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIE
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
October 3, 1996

WHEREAS, Catahoula Lake is a state owned water body and was recognized internationally in 1991 under the RAMSAR Convention for its great importance to migratory birds, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has management authority vested by state law, and

WHEREAS, the Lake is a popular area for both hunting and fishing for thousand of Louisiana citizens each year, and

WHEREAS, the historic seasonal flooding and drying cycles are the key to producing the thousands of acres of grasses and sedges that serve as food for migratory birds, and

WHEREAS, the Department and Commission have been instrumental in maintaining the natural hydraulic water patterns of this wetland in cooperation with the COE and FWS, and

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Glynn Carver, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Wildlife
Fisheries

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Glynn Carver, Chairman
La. Wildlife & Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1996

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-SEPTEMBER 1996

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-97

ENFORCEMENT-97

OTHER DIV. - 0

12-Boating

8-Angling W/O A License

37-Fishing W/O Cane Pole License

1-Taking/Possess Over Limit Undersize Freshwater Gamefish

1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish Wholesale/Retail Dealers License

1-Transport W/O Required License

5-Hunting W/O Resident License

4-Hunting W/O Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

5-Hunt Migratory Game Birds Illegal Hours

21-Hunt Migratory Game Birds Over Bait

1-Hunt Doves Closed Season

1-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

28 doves, 1-12 gauge shotgun, 12 black bass.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION I:

12-Boating

1-Littering

46-Sport Fishing

2-Commercial Fishing

Page (2)

REGION I CONT'D.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY CONT'D.

9-Hunting

27-MGB

Page (3)

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-79

ENFORCEMENT-78

OTHER DIV. - 1

15-Boating

1-Possess Live Alligator

5-Angling W/O A License

8-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

4-Hunting W/O Resident License

1-Hunt MGB W/Unplugged Gun

32-Hunt MGB Over Bait

1-Field Possess Overlimit Of Doves

3-Traffic Violations

4-Operate ATV Public Road

1-Reckless Operation

1-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

1-Hunt With Unplugged Gun

2-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

None.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2:

15-Boating

13-Sport Fishing

1-Commercial Fishing

Page (4)

REGION 2 CONT'D.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2 CONT'D.

4-Hunting

8-Other

34-MGB

12-Littering

Page (5)

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-96

ENFORCEMENT-85

OTHER DIV. -11

4-Boating

22-Angling W/O A License In Possession

2-Angling W/O Non-Resident License In Possession

3-Take Illegal/Undersize Black Bass

1-Fail To Report Commercial Fish Data

1-Take/Possess Undersize Commercial Fish

1-Take Alligator From Unapproved Area

1-Failure To Tag Alligators

5-Hunt W/O Basic Resident License In Possession

1-Hunt W/O Basic Resident License In Possession

2-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp

1-Hunt Deer Illegal Hours

1-Possession Quail In Closed Season

1-Possession Buckshot In Closed Deer Season

10-Failure To Abide By R&R On WMA

1-Failure To Comply W/Hunter Safety Regs.

1-Hunt MGB W/O Basic Non-Resident License

3-Hunt Ducks W/O Federal Stamp

23-Hunt MGB Over Baited Area

REGION 3 CONT'D.

1-Possess Overlimit Of Doves

1-Possess Overlimit Of Ducks

1-Possess Ducks Other Than Teal

2-Leave Untagged Birds W/Another

2-Hunt MGB W/Unplugged Gun

1-Hunt MGB From Moving Vehicle

1-Taking Ibis No Season

1-Taking Grebe No Season

2-Possession Of Non-Game Birds

CONFISCATIONS:

271 doves, 2 quail, 6 blue wing teal, 2 wood ducks, 3 ibis, 1 grebe, 1 ground dove, 1

American avocet, 2 alligators, 9 black bass, 67 catfish, 1-16 foot hydro sport boat, 1-85 hp
outboard motor, 1 boat trailer, 1 rifle, 1 alligator license, 2 alligator tags, 1 basic resident
hunting license.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2:

4-Boating

3-Other

2-Commercial Fishing

22-Sport Fishing

22-Hunting

2-Reptile/Amphibian

41-MGB

Page (7)

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES -43

ENFORCEMENT-43

OTHER DIV. - 0

2-Boating

6-Angling W/O A License

3-Fishing W/O Resident Pole License

2-Take Gamefish Illegally

1-Take Illegal Size Bass

2-Use Illegal Mesh Net

1-Hunt Without A Non-Resident License

3-Hunting From A Moving Vehicle

3-Hunting With An Unplugged Gun

3-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours

1-Hunt Squirrels In Closed Season

1-Possess Live Alligators Without Permit

3-Hunting With Unplugged Gun

1-Hunt MGB Illegal Hours

7-Hunt MGB Over Bait

1-Using Lead Shot In Steel Shot Zone

2-Hunt Doves During Closed Season

1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

Page (8)

CONFISCATIONS:

3 catfish, 50 doves, 1-18 foot bass, 1 squirrel, 1-7 foot alligator, 10 white perch, 2 rifles, 1 spotlight.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4:

11-Fishing

12-Hunting

3-Boating

14-MGB

2-Other

1-Reptile/Amphibian

Page (9)

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-146

ENFORCEMENT-140

OTHER DIV. - 6

38-Boating

16-Angling W/O A License

11-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

1-Take Undersize Black Drum

4-Angling Without A Saltwater License

4-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

7-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

2-Take Commercial W/O Vessel License

1-Sell Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Transport W/O Required License

3-Possess Undersize Crabs Commercial

8-Hunting W/O Resident License

2-Hunting With Unplugged Gun

1-Fail To Comply With Hunter Safety Regulations

1-Hunt Squirrels Illegal Methods

1-Trapping Closed Season

3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

2-Criminal Trespass On State Property

REGION 5 CONT'D.

1-Driving Without Operators License

7-Hunting Ducks W/O Federal Stamp

1-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

9-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

4-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area

6-Hunting Ducks Other Than Teal During Teal Season

2-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

7-Possess Overlimit Of Doves

1-Possess Overlimit Of Ducks

1-Hunt MGB Without State Stamp

CONFISCATIONS:

57 doves, 3 black drum, 8 boxes crabs, 1 wood duck, 1 spoonbill, 16 teal, 2 steel traps, 7 box traps, 25 foot trawl.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5:

32-Sport Fishing

3-Public Assistance

19-Commercial Fishing

19-Hunting

38-MGB

38-Boating

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-102

ENFORCEMENT-92

OTHER DIV. -10

55-Boating

1-Use Crab Traps Without Required Markings

2-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Without Vessel License

2-Fail To Maintain Records

3-Taking Fish Illegally

1-Failure To Mark Or Tag Nets

1-Fail To Report Commercial Fish Data

22-Angling Without A License

4-Fishing Without Resident Pole License

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

1-Possess Undersize Red Drum

1-Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum

3-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

1-Hunt And/Or Possess Ducks Other Than Teal During Teal Season

3-Hunting Doves Closed Season

1-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

5 black bass, 16 doves, 1 beer can, 2 red drum, 3 black drum, 15 catfish, 1 bateau, 1-25

hp. outboard Yamaha motor, 1 ice chest, 1 shocking device, July records from

Page (12)

REGION 6 CONFISCATIONS CONT'D.

Blanchard's Seafood, 1 wood duck, 3 shotguns.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6:

55-Boating

1-Littering

10-Commercial Fishing

29-Sport Fishing

7-MGB

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REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-147

ENFORCEMENT-147

OTHER DIV. - 0

50-Boating

38-Angling W/O A License

6-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

8-Angling W/O Cane Pole License

2-Fish W/O Non-Resident Saltwater License

1-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs., Undersize Red Snapper

11-Sell Fish W/O Wholesale Retail Dealers License

2-Fail To Maintain Records

3-No Transport License

3-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish

6-Sell Undersize Crabs

3-Hunting W/O Resident License

5-Hunt W/O Non-Resident License

1-Hunt With Unplugged Gun

4-Illegal Night Hunting

1-Illegal Possession Of Alligator

1-Possession Of Live Alligators Without Permit

1-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

1-Driving Under Suspension

Page (14)

REGION 7 CONT'D.

CONFISCATIONS:

16,279 lbs. Of crabs, 750 lbs. Of red snapper, 100 lbs. Of shrimp, 3 spotlights, 1 shotgun.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7:

50-Boating

25-Commercial Fishing

54-Sport Fishing

14-Hunting

2-Reptile/Amphibian

2-Other

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-236

ENFORCEMENT-213

OTHER DIV. - 23

36-Boating

81-Angling W/O Basic License

1-Angling W/O Basic Non-Resident License

2-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

8-Angling W/O Saltwater License

1-Angling W/O Non-Resident Saltwater License

3-Fail To Have Saltwater Stamp

3-Possess Over-the-Limit Of Red Drum

4-Take/Possess Undersize Red Drum

6-Take/Possess Undersize Speckled Trout

1-Take/Possess Undersize Black Drum

5-Not Abiding By Commission Rules For Recreational Finfish

1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

1-Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

1-Sell Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Fail To Maintain Records

11-Illegal Possession Of Red Drum Or Speckled Trout

4-Use Saltwater Seine Illegally

REGION 8 CONT'D.

4-Fail To Keep Net On Board

7-Fail To Comply With Commission Rules Concerning Traversing Permit

2-Take/Possess Undersize Commercial Catfish

1-Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman

1-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

1-Allow Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Vessel

1-Allow Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Gear

3-Possess or Sell Undersize Crabs

4-Trawl In Restricted Area

1-Use Skimmers In Closed Season

3-Use Illegal Mesh Trawl

2-Use Oversize Skimmer Nets

3-Hunt W/O Resident License

1-Take/Possess Alligators In Closed Season

1-Illegal Possession Of Alligator Skin

1-Hunt MGB With Unplugged Gun

3-Hunt MGB Illegal Hours

6-Hunt MGB Over Baited Area

3-Hunt/Possess Ducks Other Than Teal During Teal Season

1-Use Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

1-Possess Over The Limit Of Ducks

REGION 8 CONT'D.

2-Taking Ibis-No Season

1-Obtain License By Fraud

11-Take Federally controlled Fish In Close Season

1-Refuse/Misrepresent Booking Information

CONFISCATIONS:

82 speckled trout, 82 red drum, 13 spanish mackerel, 8 greater amberjack, 7 white trout, 126 catfish, 802 lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$1,967.50, 11,469 lbs. Of black drum, 154 lbs. Of mangrove snapper sold for \$269.50, black drum, pompano and cobia sold for \$12,879.60, 5 teal, 1 alligator hide. 2 trawls, 1 ice chest, 1 motorboat, 2 commercial licenses, 1 basic fishing license, 1 shotgun, assorted drug paraphernalia, 1 red snapper, 1 grouper, 3 flounder, 2 croakers, 1 eel, 200 lbs. Of crabs, 128 lbs. Of cobia, 52 lbs. Of pompano, 1 mottled duck, 9 doves, 10 skimmer nets, 2 butterfly nets, 1 plastic pan, 1 gear license, 1 saltwater license, 1 rifle, 2 seafood records.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

36-Boating

115-Sport Fishing

61-Commercial Fishing

3-Hunting

2-Reptile/Amphibian

17-MGB

2-Other

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REGION 9

TOTAL CASES-250

ENFORCEMENT- 200

OTHER DIV. - 50

26-Boating

10-Angling W/O A License

5-Angling W/O Saltwater License

3-Fail To Have Saltwater Stamp

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

8-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

10-Possess Undersize Red Drum

6-Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout

4-Possess Undersize Black Drum

5-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

9-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

4-Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

2-Fail To Maintain Records

2-Take Undersize Commercial Finfish

1-Blocking Passage Of Fish

1-Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings

1-Remove Contents From Legal Crab Traps

1-Permit Unlicensed Person To Operate Commercial Vessel

1-Permit Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Gear

REGION 9 CONT'D.

2-Failure To Tag Nets

12-Possess Undersize Hard Commercial Crabs

1-Use Illegal Mesh Trawl

53-Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef

1-Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester License

3-Hunting W/O Resident License

2-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun

2-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp

2-Hunt Rabbits Closed Season

2-Take Rabbits Illegal Methods

2-Take Rabbits By Mashing Weeds

2-Hunt Squirrel Closed Season

4-Hunting Duck W/O Federal Stamp

1-Hunt MGB W/Unplugged Gun

2-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

4-Hunting & Possession Of Ducks Other Than Teal During Teal Season

3-Hunting MGB With Illegal Firearm

2-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

3-Possession Of Other Non-Game Birds-No Season

19-Not Abiding By Rules & Regs. By Trespassing

1-Not Abiding By Rules & Regs. By Trawling

REGION 9 CONT'D.

2-Public Intimidation

1-Refuse Booking Information

8-Violation Of Sanitary Code, Fail To Refrigerate Properly

3-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

177 lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$241.70, 12 seatrout, 1 redfish, 270 lbs. Of catfish sold for \$116.20, 287 catfish donated, 6 carp released, 4 freshwater drum, 80 buffalo fish, 21 bass, 34 drum, 1 northern shoveler, 1 mottle duck, 23 blue teal, 1 dove, 3 spoonbills, 1 rabbit, 1600 feet of gill net, 2 skimmer nets, 2 trawls, 2 boats and motors, 1 crab trap, 4 guns, 2 champagne baskets, 1 ice chest, 1 commercial license, 2 receipt books.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9:

26-Boating

3-Littering

57-Sport Fishing

9-Misc.

41-Commercial Fishing

1-Trawling

54-Oysters

15-Hunting

22-MGB

22-WMA

OYSTER CASE REPORT

TOTAL CASES-112

65-Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reefs

10-Failure To Comply With Sanitary Code

1-Take Oysters W/O Commercial Fish License

1-Take Oysters W/O Vessel License

1-Take Oysters W/O Gear License

1-Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester License

1-Take Shrimp W/O Commercial License

1-Misrepresent Booking Information

11-Possess Undersize Red Drum

11-Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

1-Permit Unlicensed Person To Operate Commercial Vessel

1-Permit Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Gear

1-Failure To Retain Oyster Tags For 90 Days

1-Failure To Tag Containerized Oysters

1-Failure To Comply With Oyster Packaging Regs.

3-Violation Of Lacy Act

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CONFISCATIONS:

718 sacks of oysters, 116 lbs. Of shrimp, 3 spotted seatrout, 3 red drum.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE:

3-Commercial Fishing

103-Oysters

5-Sport Fishing

1-Other

STRIKE FORCE AND SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT:

TOTAL CASES-62

- 4-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs.**
- 3-Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License**
- 2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License**
- 2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Vessel License**
- 11-Buy And Sell Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealers License**
- 2-Shed Soft Shell Crabs Without Shedders License**
- 3-Fail To Maintain Records**
- 2-Transport Fish Without Required License**
- 4-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish**
- 2-Buy Fish From Unlicensed Commercial Fisherman**
- 2-Allow Another To Use Commercial Fishing License**
- 1-Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Vessel License**
- 1-Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Gear License**
- 3-Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data**
- 6-Sell Undersize Commercial Hard Crabs**
- 2-Fail To Pay Shrimp Severance Tax**
- 1-Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef**
- 1-Sell Reptiles And Amphibians Without Collectors License**
- 1-Operate Without Wholesale/Retail Reptile Amphibian**

STRIKE FORCE AND SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT CONT'D.:

4-Violate Lacy Act

4-Federal Conspiracy

1-Federal Permit Violation

CONFISCATIONS:

16,160 lbs. Of crabs sold for \$4,965.70, 8,074 lbs. Of red snapper sold for \$12,079.45, 169 lbs. Of greater amberjack sold for \$295.75, 109 lbs. Of cobia sold for \$190.75, 28 lbs. Of bee liner sold for \$40.45, 25 lbs. Of lane snapper sold for \$37.50, 12 lbs. Of trigger fish sold for \$28.50, 5 lbs. Of scamp grouper sold for \$15.50, 700 lbs. Of hard crabs returned-to-water, 125 lbs. Of red snapper, 20 lbs. Of channel catfish, 35 lbs. Of spanish mackerel, 75 sacks of oysters returned-to-water.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR STRIKE FORCE AND SEAFOOD

INVESTIGATIVE UNIT:

53-Commercial Fishing

9-Federal Commercial Violations

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S.W.E.P.

123- HOURS RUNNING TIME

42-BOATS CHECKED

TOTAL CASES-17

4-Boating

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

1-Trawl Inside Waters W/Oversize Double Rigs

2-Fail To Abide By Commission Rules And Regs.

1-No Commercial Fishing License In Possession

1-No Commercial Fishing License Non-Resident

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

2-Allow Unlicensed Person to Use Commercial Gear License

2-Allow Unlicensed Person To Use Commercial Gear

2-Allow Unlicensed Person To Use Vessel License

CONFISCATIONS:

75 sacks of oysters returned-to-water, 280 lbs. Of crabs sold for \$198.00, 1 commercial fishing license, 2 trawls, 1,603 lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$2,553.90.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.:

4-Boating

13-Commercial Fishing

ILLEGAL SHRIMP ACTIVITY REPORT

REGION 8 ENFORCEMENT

SEPTEMBER 1996

Shrimp activity for this month has been low. The white shrimp crop has been disappointing and there has been a significant drop in effort. Complaints of shrimp boats stealing crab traps, and of crabbers blocking waters with crab traps have been received and addressed. Also, several complaints were received of persons using illegal mesh and oversized skimmers.

A small number of license cases were made. With so many other season openings and activities in September, and the lack of shrimp and shrimpers, a strong effort on shrimping was not necessary.

We received numerous inquiries for Ted information, which were referred to the LSU Cooperative Extension Services Fisheries Agent Gerald Horst.

Several License cases and a small number of illegal gear (oversized nets, illegal mesh) were made. No undersized shrimp were encountered.

802 lbs. Of shrimp were seized and sold.

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TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT-1286

TOTAL CASES OTHER DIV. - 101

GRAND TOTAL -1387

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
SEPTEMBER, 1996

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 35.6

185-Float - 70365
Hrs. - 42.9

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 35.3

Enforcement Hours - 113.8

Other Divisions - 31.9

Total Plane Use - 145.7 Hrs.

Cases Made in Conjunction with Aircraft Use Resulted in Citations
being issued for:

2 - Undersize Crabs

1 - Trawl In Closed Area

1 - Undersize Mesh

4 - Total Cases

Confiscations: 4 Boxes Crabs, 1 30 Ft. Trawl, 50 Lbs. Of Shrimp

*Waterfowl Survey began.

G. Shooting Hours

1. Shooting hours for hunting preserves shall be set by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The current hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

H. Methods of Take

1. Shotguns 10 gauge or smaller capable of holding no more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined; steel shot only may be specified on hunting preserves using waterfowl.

2. Muzzle-loading shotguns;

3. Falconry;

4. Archery equipment.

I. Existing state laws R.S. 56:651-659 and federal law 50 CFR 21:13 address bird banding, bird identification, bird transportation, reports and records and other issues. Compliance with these state and federal laws are mandatory.

J. Changes in Rules

1. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may from time to time make changes in these rules and it is the responsibility of the licensee to apprise himself of any changes and to abide by them.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:651-659.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 18:1136 (October 1992).

307. Goose Creeping

It shall be unlawful to approach geese by creeping, crawling, or stalking for the purpose of taking geese or thereafter causing geese to be taken. "Take" means, in its different tenses, the attempt or act of hooking, pursuing netting, capturing, snaring, trapping, shooting, hunting, wounding, or killing by any means or devise.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:547 (August 1988).

309. Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp 1989 Art Competition Rules and Procedures

by Roy Marks

"Creeping", It's Not For The Birds

While it may seem strange to be discussing goose hunting in the middle of May, there's an urgency to quell a fire that could be brewing in our midst at this very moment. I've been advised that during the summer meetings of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, there will be a push to have the "No Creeping" goose law removed from the books.

Such a move would probably strike many of us differently. We all have an opinion and many of us are desperate to correct what seems to be a deteriorating situation in waterfowling. But friends, after studying the facts, I feel safe to say that creeping geese is not the answer to any problem. Reversal of this law at this time would ultimately lead to the waterfowler's worst nightmare, that being no geese, period.

To better understand the overall picture, let's look at some facts and history. First of all, the goose creeping regulation states, "It shall be unlawful to approach geese by creeping, crawling, or stalking for the purpose of taking geese or thereafter causing geese to be taken." For all practical purposes, "taking" means shooting with a gun.

The practice of creeping geese originated when the first Europeans were settling the state. They didn't have time to hunt conventionally and needed to feed their families. There was plenty of waterfowl and they only took what they needed for the table. Creeping became an accepted method of hunting.

So what's unacceptable about creeping geese today? It's almost impossible to sneak up on a concentration of geese and kill or cripple less than the legal limit. Creepers usually are tempted to practice other violations such as shooting from the road or a vehicle. It's not a sporting method of taking game and is unethical. But more importantly, it changes the behavior pattern of geese and once that occurs, it's virtually irreversible.

Some of you may remember when Canada geese were common in Louisiana. Well, it's not the case anymore. Increased pressure and harassment changed their behavior. They began stopping north of their usual destination to satisfy their needs and avoid stress.

Folks in the know are afraid the same thing will happen to our snows, blues and speckbellies. Geese need time to rest and if so-called hunters keep popping them every thirty minutes, they will eventually vacate the area to potentially never return.

Thanks to the "no creeping" regulation, these geese haven't been instinctively forced to short-stop yet. But hunters are currently witnessing a side effect of earlier creeping. The increased stress has taught the birds to congregate in huge numbers.

This "safety in numbers" syndrome has many well-intentioned hunters

atching their heads in puzzlement. Some feel that the birds need to be stirred, irregardless of the method. Wrong! Studies show that additional harassment will only result in total displacement.

When I was growing up in central Louisiana, few of us knew what wild waterfowl was. Today these folks are enjoying some of the best waterfowling in the country. These birds have learned to avoid the constant pummeling they receive down here and someday may not bother to come at all.

The good news is that there are some things we can do to help our situation. In hunting, we need to be more patient and refine our methods. This can be done through observation, study and experimentation.

In regards to creeping and other harassment, we need to be more vocal. Such tactics are for outlaws and we don't need them setting policy for the sport of goose hunting. Contact your elected officials, attend meetings, write letters and speak your mind.

We can't afford to allow a few greedy people to rob us of a heritage. It would be a sad day when we might spend an entire season in the field and never so much as hear or see a goose. That's what we have to look forward to if the harassment is not curtailed and kept in check.



Calcasieu Rod And Gun Club

P. O. Box 6524
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA



June 2, 1993

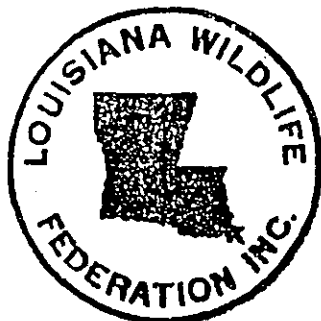
Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Comm.
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Dear Mr. Chairman :

The Calcasieu Rod & Gun Club supports the objectives of the " Goose Creeping " law which was enacted a few years ago. We are in favor of regulations which protect and preserve all of our fish and wildlife resources.

Yours in Conservation,

Paul Yakupzack
President





Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc.

P.O. BOX 16089 LSU
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70893
504/355-1871

ACTION ALERT

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OVERRULES CONSERVATIONISTS -
REJECTS BAN ON GOOSE CREEPING TO CONSERVE WATERFOWL. FURTHER
ABUSES MAY BRING MORE SEVERE FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS - LAWSUITS
FROM ANTI-HUNTERS AND FURTHER DISGRACE TO LOUISIANA

As you may be aware by now, on Tuesday October 21st, 5 members of the Louisiana Legislature's House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, acting as a subcommittee on oversight according to the Louisiana Administrative Procedures Act, rejected a regulation adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to conserve our wild goose population by outlawing the practice of creeping geese. The Commission's action was a response to the widespread abuse of the resource by shooters who creep close to a flock of resting geese and then fire into the flock resulting in the killing of far over the limit and the crippling of many more.

Though there is nothing necessarily criminal or unethical about creeping per se, it can be devastating to the geese when the method is abused; not only through overshooting and excessive crippling but also through the constant harassment the flocks are subjected to at a time of year when they need to be feeding and resting up for the long flight to the nesting grounds.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted the rule banning goose creeping at its July meeting as a means of curtailing the abuse, for both the protection of the geese and the future of hunting. The rule was requested and supported by sportsmen's groups, wildlife biologists, and state and federal wildlife enforcement officials. No objections to the proposal were registered until the members of the oversight committee rejected the rule.

If you support the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in its effort to protect our goose population from excessive harassment and abuse, contact Governor Edwards and ask his support for the Commission's ban on goose creeping. Send copies of your letter to your state senator and representative.

The members of the oversight committee rejecting the rule were: Donald Thibodeaux, Crowley; Murray Hebert, Houma; Fox McKeithen, Columbia; Frank Patti, Belle Chasse; and Harry Benoit, Breaux Bridge. Rep. Chris Ullo was acting chairman and did not vote.

Honorable Edwin W. Edwards,
Governor of Louisiana
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Yours in conservation.

s/ Wilson J. Thibodeaux
President

FOUR ISLAND HUNTING CLUB

VERMILION PARISH



To Whom it may Concern:

There comes a time in life when decisions to be made may be easier decided with the opinions and advice of several minds instead of one. Gentlemen, this is what we would like for you to take the time and please decide what is best for the people of our parish and community. I represent the Four Island Hunting Club registered with the state and in the parish of Vermilion. Our club consist of 45 members with 1600 acres of hunting property located southwest of Kaplan along the Intracoastal Canal waterway. The past several years our goose hunting was by far the best. The geese come down early and stay for the entire hunting season without any problems.

Living and hunting in this area for a fourth generation family we can only say this from past experiences, creeping and shooting geese in a flock will never help us to keep our geese population here for the entire season. I am 36 years old and I lost my grandfather this spring at the age of 92, he hunted until about the age of 80. He often told us "you can thank the Wildlife and Fisheries for stopping the hunting by creeping and shooting geese from trucks and boats", before, this made large flocks afraid of certain areas to feed in rice fields or pastures. Now the birds stay within working distance of the decoys, compared to several years ago when we could only get a few birds to come down. By keeping this law enforced we have better hunting and less problems with people leaving town and riding trucks and boats to trespass on our properties to creep and shoot the ducks and geese.

Let's face it, check with the Sheriff's offices in south Louisiana, you will see for yourselves that less tickets for trespassing are being given since this law was passed. Like I sad before I come from a four generation family always living in south Louisiana and I represent the Four Island Hunting Club and we strongly urge you to please consider leaving the no creeping law in tact. This will make our home grounds a safer and more prosperous place for our children to hunt and live.

Thank you,

Ricky LeBouef
Board Member
Four Island Hunting Club
Route 3 box 312EE
Kaplan, LA 70548



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

OFFICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT
210 JOHN GLENN ROAD, SUITE 21/22
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70508
TELEPHONE (318) 264-6681

May 24, 1993

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RETENTION OF THE NO GOOSE CREEPING LAW

There is a move being generated to remove this law from the books and I cannot believe what I am hearing. Anyone who believes this a sportsman like way to hunt should acquaint themselves with the video that was made a few years ago on this "noble" activity: a group of our finest sports got behind a levee and crept up on a few thousand snow geese. When they were almost on top of the geese, these find lads rose up in unison and blasted into the unsuspecting geese. The end result was dead and crippled geese all over the place with other cripples dropping out of the flock of hastily departing geese. Something like 157 geese were killed in the particular slaughter and this was our lads second "shoot" of the day!

Law enforcement people claim the law is hard to enforce and that the U.S. Attorney does not want to try the cases. If that is the case, there must be a loop hole. If so, tighten up the law even more but do not get rid of it. By repealing the law, we are saying that it is perfectly fine to take game in such a manner - maybe we ought to legalize the spot lighting of deer or the selling of game fish. At least having the law on the books, acts as preventative medicine in many cases.

I read an article in the Jennings paper early this spring stating that the law should be removed because it made it difficult for some of the hunting clubs to get geese for their clients. The geese sat in large fields and the hunters could not get at them. Since when was game or fish guaranteed to people - just enjoying being out in the field is supposed to be part of the deal. Further, this article failed to state that goose production for most of the Arctic nesters was a near bust in 1992 (late spring) less than 7% young in the fall flight for snow geese and these experienced birds did not like getting shot and were hard to decoy.

My side of the coin is in favor of the resource but I enjoy hunting a great deal. Wise use can perpetuate this sport for years to come and there is no place for the game hog. If we lose this law it will be a step backward.

Arthur R. Brazda
Flyway Biologist

October 17, 1994

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

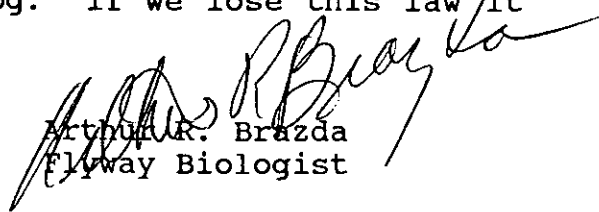
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Arthur R. Brazda
Flyway Biologist

**BAYOU STATE
BOWHUNTERS
ASSOC.**



BAYOU STATE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

March 28, 1995

Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-8000

Mike Colvin
Association Director
609 Downey Lane
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 325-8064

Re: LA Wildlife Federation
Resolution No. 13B, 1995
Lifting the Ban on Goose Creeping

Russell C. Lantier
Bowhunting Director
13615 Cedar Ridge Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70817
(504) 752-7460

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Please accept this letter in recognition of our continued opposition to the referenced Resolution which suffered a nearly unanimous eleven (11) to one (1) defeat in committee at the annual Louisiana Wildlife Federation meeting in Natchitoches, LA on February 18, 1995. The following items are of which we have based our decision:

We remain:

- 1) adamantly opposed to any indiscriminate taking and inadvertent crippling/loss of any waterfowl;
- 2) opposed to any methods of take which are contradictory to fair chase;
- 3) in favor of enhancing the life cycle of the resource by reduction of pressure on resting waterfowl;
- 4) in favor of the existing ban as a deterrent against trespassing/poaching.

In closing, we thank you for your consideration of the submitted matters.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Russell C. Lantier, Bowhunting Director
Bayou State Bowhunters Association
13615 Cedar Ridge Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Klondike Cheniere, Inc.

I am writing this because of concern I have over the rumors that there are sportsmen who are trying to re-activate goose creeping in our state. This bothers me. Our club is not commercial, but one that enjoys the people I bring (150+yearly) mostly to goose hunt.

I hunt the Lake Arthur, Klondike area. In the days when goose creeping was allowed, it was like an open invitation to poach. When I was trying to let the geese rest in order to have a decent hunt, a car would stop, and so-called hunters would creep the geese and run them off - call that a sport. If they got any shots, they would pick up what they could and leave the cripples.

Since the goose creeping law has gone into effect, it has helped; but there are still those who ride around and when they think it is safe, poach or creep the geese. I have caught several in the past, and came close this year. It is very frustrating to pay all that money and find out somebody has messed up a good hunt because they had nothing better to do than drink beer and look for a place to get an easy goose.

If the so-called "sports" were allowed to creep geese again, it could very well be the end of some of the better goose hunting we enjoy.

I have been hunting this area since 1979, and there are not as many geese as we used to have. I blame it on pressure and cropping practices. Any added pressure, such as goose creeping, may very well finish it.

I cover a large area due to my work and listen a lot. I hear tales of the number of geese killed when creeping was allowed; it was mind-boggling to me. I had no idea how many people did this. They would follow the geese in trucks, use radios to check for game wardens, etc., and just kill for pure pleasure. It was a weekend sport: load the ice chest and ride.

As I have said, I take a lot of customers and friends hunting, some from out of state. I have heard comments that we were the only state that did not allow goose creeping. Why? I feel that we were the only ones that had a serious problem with this. When you get from Alexandria north, Arkansas, Mississippi, they do not hunt blues and snows - the only time they run them off is when they are destroying a crop.

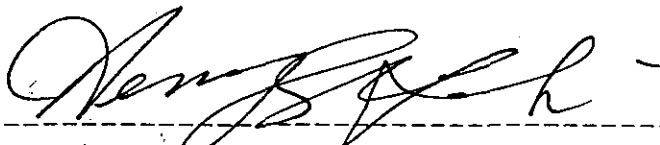
The more pressure we put on the geese down here, the more that will stay up north.

I understand that there is concern about the population of snows and blues - they may hurt the population and God forbid, hurt the breeding area.

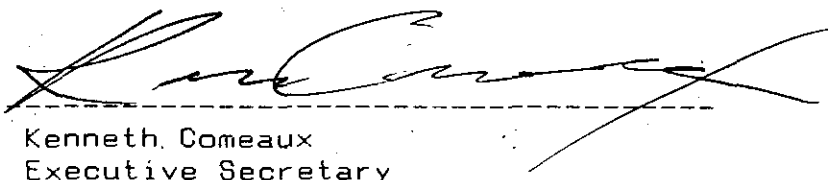
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trying to get numbers down, goose creeping is not one way to do it. Look at alternatives. The blues and snows are very difficult to decoy because they feed in such large numbers and are very noisy. Maybe let true sportsmen hunting out of pits use mechanical calls that produce loud noise to attract blues and snows and could be lured close enough to kill a few. People north of us view the blue and snow as a trash goose and don't hunt them. Maybe if they would know how to cook them, they might change their minds.

These are some of the concerns and opinions I have and hope they are of some help. Just to say, open it up because we have lots of geese, and we are the only ones not allowing it, is near-sighted. There was a reason for the law, and a good one. It should stand.



Henry Stefanski
President, Klondike Cheniere



Kenneth Comeaux
Executive Secretary

Dear Sirs:

In regards to the proposed cancellation of the "GOOSE CREEPING STATUTE"- I AM OPPOSED. This statute has helped normalize daily feeding and preening habits of the birds and has allowed more resting opportunities for the birds. I am opposed to killing this statute because on two separate occasions I personally witnessed illegal creeps: one occurred on December 24, 1992 on the Mouton Mini-Refuge located North of Kaplan. The second illegal creep occurred on December 28, 1992 on Vermillion Irrigation Properties located South of Graydon.

In closing I respectfully ask that the present statute be maintained and if possible stronger enforcement measures be taken to ensure continued resting habitat remains available for the geese and associated migratory waterfowl.

Brent Faulk

Sincerely,
Brent Faulk
May 30, 1993



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

POST OFFICE BOX 4306
103 EAST CYPRESS STREET
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70502

April 21, 1986

Mr. Larry Soileau
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Opelousas, Louisiana 70520

Dear Larry,

Recently, you and I spoke regarding the feasibility of imposing a regulatory change that would render the "creeping" of geese an unlawful act.

As you know, this unethical method of hunting geese has become a serious problem. This was recently evidenced by the fact that enforcement agents apprehended a total of 104 hunters who had killed 858 geese. Some hunters killed as many as 35 birds per man, not to mention the untold crippling loss which results from indiscriminate firing into feeding and resting goose flocks. Additionally, a serious problem of hunter trespass has resulted.

For these reasons, I suggest that you incorporate the following regulation into the 1986/87 hunting and fishing pamphlet. This regulation has been carefully worded in order to be specific to the undesirable activity of "creeping" geese. Worded as such, it would not restrict the legitimate traditional methods of goose hunting such as pass shooting or the hunting of geese from temporary or permanent blinds with or without the use of decoys and calls. Additionally, this regulation has been approved by the United State Attorney's Office in Lafayette, Louisiana who will prosecute the majority of such violations.

The proposed regulation has been worded as follows:

It shall be unlawful to creep, stalk, crawl, or otherwise approach, feeding or resting blue, snow, Canada, or white-fronted geese for the purpose of taking such geese or thereafter causing such geese to be taken.

"Take" means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect.

Sincerely yours,

W. Frank Simms

cc: SAC-Atlanta, GA
SRA-Slidell, LA

VENTURE

Creeping: Whatever it's called, it's overkill

From B-1

as eight shotgunners unloaded three shells each directly into the field of white.

"Fifty or sixty geese are killed outright, and another score or so are left crippled, struggling on the ground," recalled Randy Simms, an agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "But that's not the end of it."

"You know how many pellets there are in 24 shotgun shells? With geese packed in so tightly, it's impossible for one of those pellets not to strike a bird somewhere."

As the flock rises and flies off, the crippled start falling from the sky.

"For a full minute — sometimes more — it literally rains dead and dying geese," Simms said. "Slaughter is too kind a word."

The word is "creeping," a term wildlife managers consider pathetically appropriate for a form of hunting practiced extensively in southwestern Louisiana. It is simple and brutal: using ditches and canals, armed men creep up on huge concentrations of wintering geese and fire blindly into the flocks.

The result, almost always, is severe overbagging and crippling.

Last month the USFWS, the federal agency charged with managing the nation's waterfowl, sent enforcement agents from across the country into three southwestern Louisiana parishes in a sweep whose results shocked and dismayed even hardened undercover agents.

After 28 days, 104 people were cited for 173 violations, agents said. At least 57 had more than the daily limit of five geese. Most had ten or more. One man had 35. One group of six men was arrested with 200 — 170 over their limit.

The people arrested were described as "ordinary citizens, from laborers to successful businessmen and pillars of the community." Two were maintenance employees of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge. Names of the accused have not been released yet by federal authorities pending the filing of charges.

The creepers were apprehended in the field, surrounded by the dead and dying, or while hauling out their kills in wheelbarrows. They attacked from ditches and canals; they fired from the cover of levees; they shot from cars while stopped at roadside.

And when the federal agents showed up, they didn't even slow down.

"At one point, they were pulling to roadside fields in trucks, opening up with automatic rifles and driving off," one agent said. "It was hard to believe."

Not for Frank Simms. A special agent for the USFWS in southwestern Louisiana for more than 15 years.

"We've known there was a problem for many years, except the problem keeps getting worse every year," Simms said. "People around here have been harvesting meat like that for generations. But it finally had gotten to an unmanageable state. We finally had to do something to protect the integrity of the species."

Biologists and enforcement agents are concerned because of the potential impact such slaughter can have on the resource. Blue and snow geese have been migrating annually in winter to Louisiana's coast for hundreds of thousands of years. But the goose creepers could change that, and more.

Waterfowl managers worry that the geese will be too stressed to nest successfully on their return to the breeding grounds, and they are concerned that such non-stop harassment may force a change in traditional migration patterns.

"The bad thing about this is that the geese are just now trying to prepare [physically] for their migrations north," Simms said. "These are primarily blue and snow geese from the East Hudson Bay area. If they don't get luck in Canada and get on the nest by June 1 in peak nesting condition, then they're in trouble."

Nesting success has been near record levels in recent years because habitat in that area of northeast Canada has been excellent. But that fact only alarms biologists even more.

Creepers: others' views on the 'Sportsman's Paradise'



A 'creeper' being cited for overbagging by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent.

The 24-agent force assembled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was drawn from offices across the nation. Men and women from Alaska to Florida were brought to Louisiana to help in the effort.

They left for home with distinct impressions of Louisiana. Most were overwhelmed by two impressions: the abundant natural resources, and the mindless slaughter done by the creepers.

Randy Armstrong, Fairbanks, Alaska: I was really stunned by the wealth of the wildlife resources down there. Actually, there is more available to the average citizen in Louisiana than there is here in Alaska. Up here you have to rent a place and spend a lot of money to get into country with any abundance of wildlife. Down there you can walk right off a road and be in it. I had no idea we still had a goose resource like that. Then there was all the other life just out in the open — alligators, waterfowl, fur bearers. Alaska is supposed to be the last frontier, but Louisiana seems to have more.

Basically, though, I didn't see any sport hunting going on in those fields. People were more interested in harvesting than in sport. I guess I wasn't surprised by the overbagging; I suppose when you have that kind of access you're going to have problems. But I was certainly disappointed. The overbagging was outrageous.

People down there have to realize that those birds belong to everybody on the continent, from Canada to Louisiana.

I suppose it's a cultural thing down there. Up here, we still have people who live off the land — but not every day like down there. If they weren't killing geese,

they were after ducks, frogs, alligators — even robins. Garland Swain, Davila Lake, N.D.: I've never seen anything quite like that down there — anywhere. Not at all concerned with sport, only with what they can kill and how many.

I guess I wasn't really surprised. I'd heard a lot of horror stories about Louisiana, so the extent of the overbagging wasn't a complete shock, although it's worse than anything in my experience. What did surprise me was the persistence of the violators. I didn't go down there until three weeks into the program. By then, everyone knew we were out there working, making cases. Yet they continued to go on it.

We don't have that problem up here. First of all, the habitat isn't right. You can't creep up on the geese in the middle of a huge field. But the people just don't go after it like that. Bill Sklar, Minot, N.D.: I was totally aghast at the situation. It just surprised me that the state even allowed creeping, considering the habitat and how easy it was.

What really amazed me was the extent of overbagging. All we had to do was find a hunter, and we would have some problems with violations — usually over the bag limit. I think it ended up that 80 percent of the hunters we checked were in violation of the law. That's staggering.

The problem isn't going to go away. I'm not sure what the state or federal government can do in the way of regulations, but something should be done, soon.

John Orlert, Grand Junction, Colo.: Well, I really enjoyed the people and the food.

But I was appalled by the slaughter taking place down there. I believe it's primarily the method of taking, creeping. It's damn near impossible to have somebody creep next to a huge concentration of geese and fire into them without taking over the limit — and leaving a lot of cripples.

We don't have that problem here in Colorado. No, I, we don't have that kind of habitat — ditches and canals that allow creeping. And we don't have that kind of resource. We hunt primarily Canada geese, and the limit is two a day. It's very rare to see anyone over the limit.

I suppose it's a cultural thing. They don't really hunt; they harvest. I believe there is a percentage of people who really don't understand the impact they are having.

The people we arrested were very polite. They weren't angry or bitter at all. They were caught, and that was it.

I really think it's going to take education, but I also think we should continue those types of operations to help reduce the slaughter.

Cass Vendel, Kansas City, Kan.: What I will remember most — aside from the tremendous slaughter — was the attitude of the hunters in the field that we caught. It was as if violation of fish and game laws is just very common and prevalent down there. When we caught them with all these geese over the limit, it was like nothing unusual — except that they got caught.

Normally, when you apprehend people in a big violation, they're shook up, embarrassed, upset. I mean, it's a big deal. Down there, it was just another day.

Bob Marshall

"There is no way anyone can creep a flock, fire into it and not seriously overbag — not to mention the harm done by crippling."

with decoys are as upset about this as anyone," Simms said. "When geese are harassed, they tend to concentrate in larger and larger flocks. They become difficult to hunt by legitimate means."

Last year the USFWS decided to move. Its operation was centered on 1 million, Jefferson Davis and Acadia parishes, three areas with a history of serious violations. Approximately 24 federal agents and five state agents were involved, with 12-man teams in the field almost 24 hours a day.

Working in plain clothes, in unmarked cars, agents made contact with groups of creepers, or simply patrolled the countryside near concentrations of geese, knowing they would soon find creepers at work.

"Hardly an hour goes by when the creepers aren't at work," Simms said. "Geese congregates in any numbers, all have to do is wait 30 minutes, and creepers will be out."

Out-of-state agents were stunned by the persistence of the violators, who continued working hard at creeping after word was out that federal agents were in the field.

"The thing that really shocked me most was the attitude of the people involved," said Cass Vendel, a USF agent based in Kansas City, Kan. "It's no big deal. They acted like this, something extremely normal, in another day."

"Within a week or so, everybody in the area knew us. Yet they kept going at it."

Tactics changed, however, as agents began taking a toll of violators.

"Toward the end of the thing," Simms said, "we'd see trucks and cars pull up a field, throw open doors and fire into the flocks with AR-15 and M-1 carbines — 30-caliber semiautomatic assault weapons. They'd just unload clip after clip of ammunition into the flocks. As soon as the shooting stopped, one guy would jump out, run into the field, grab many geese as he could handle and run back into the truck, then speed away."

"They left the other dead and crippled birds in the field. That's the kind of people we're dealing with."

Almost to a man, the agents involved felt the problem would not end until creeping is banned. The federal government could consider such a move, Louisiana as the result of the recent enforcement sweep, agents said.

"Unfortunately, you've got everything set up perfectly for this type of slaughter in these parishes," Simms said. "In place else in the country you won't find such dense concentrations of birds, fields that are surrounded by ditches and levees, which allow this creeping."

"Because of those numbers, there's no way anyone can creep a flock, into it and not seriously overbag — to mention the harm done by crippling."

Simms expects those cited to be charged in federal court during the next three to four weeks. Penalties range upward to a \$10,000 fine and/or one year in jail.

And some of those cited, Simms said, were on probation from previous federal game violations and could face deportation.

The two state employees involved already have resigned their positions, but still must face federal charges.

Agents are hoping that the sweep will deter further creeping, but they are counting on it, even though goose season closed Feb. 13.

"You can bet they'll be out there at those geese right now," Simms said. "They'll creep 'em until they leave."

"Habitat conditions are cyclical," Simms warned. "Eventually, they will get bad. And when that happens, we're concerned these geese won't have the energy to put forth the hard effort it takes to successfully nest in those conditions."

Of equal concern is the impact on migration patterns. Constant harassment will force geese eventually to seek

quieter, safer wintering areas. "We're already seeing this," Simms said. "Every year larger and larger concentrations of blue and snows are wintering in northern Louisiana and Arkansas."

"You'll probably hear hunters down here screaming about 'shortstopping,' claiming people up north are putting out feed to stop the geese."

"The truth is the geese have been forced to move. And, once again, we have

to look at the impact on the species. Are these new wintering grounds providing the type of habitat the birds need to return in good enough condition to nest?"

Law-abiding hunters have joined forces with enforcement agents to try to halt creeping, resenting the use of the word "hunter" when applied to the creepers.

"Sportsmen who hunt from blinds

Shot's Hunting Camp

IN THE HEART OF (SPECK) COUNTRY
KLONDIKE AREA

P.O. BOX 405 RAYNE, LA 70578

(318) 334-3577 DAY (318) 334-5651 NIGHT (318) 774-5553 CAMP

To: Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
c/o Mr. Jeff Schneider (Chairman)

DEAR Commission:

I am very opposed to creeping Geese in S.W. La. and hope that you will not change the Law about creeping. Here are 3 reasons why I don't like creeping.

1. Overkill - this is the 1st thing that comes to mind and by creeping geese you have got to kill over your limit -
2. Trespassing on private or posted property -
3. Putting too much pressure on Geese - Running them out of the area.

I am the owner and operator of Shot's Hunting Camp and want to conserve our goose & duck population as much as the state can. I hope you will consider this request to keep the creeping Law in our waterfowl laws.

Thanks -
Good Hunting
Morton Shatkin Jr.
"Shot"
~

E L Habetz Builders Inc.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

414 East Northern Avenue
Crowley, LA 70526
318-783-7422
Fax 318-783-6422

February 15, 1995

Mr. Percy Gisclair, Chairman
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Dear Mr. Gisclair,

I am writing to you with regards to the maintaining of the current goose-creeping law.

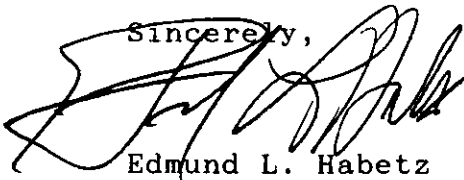
As an avid and long-time goose hunter, lease-holder, and as a landowner I am totally convinced that the "law" has served a great purpose in keeping these birds in our area. Having hunted in the Gueydan, Lake Arthur, Crowley areas for a number of years (I also own a hunting camp and property in this area), we are seeing more and more hunters - private and commercial - getting into the goose-hunting "business". With all of this added hunting pressure it is becoming extremely difficult to keep huntable numbers of the goose population in this area.

Should the "law" be rescinded I feel that it would put much more pressure on the birds, and sooner or later, run them out of our area. That way NO ONE WINS!

I am also convinced that if the ban is lifted it would open the doors to a myriad of poaching and trespassing problems that we have not experienced since the law has been in place. We, as landowners, can all sleep at night.

It is my sincere hope that you consider these thoughts along with those of many of the landowners and hunters that I have spoken with recently, in keeping the "goose creeping" ban in effect.

Sincerely,



Edmund L. Habetz

H.C. DREW ESTATE

P.O. BOX 125
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 70602

TRUSTEES:

LOUIE D. (Beau) BARBE, III
C. WADE SHADDOCK, JR.

February 21, 1995

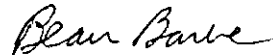
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Attention: Perry Gisclair
Post Office Box 9800
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

Dear Mr. Gisclair:

As a land owner and goose hunter, it is very important to me that the law dealing with goose creeping remains on the books.

There are several reasons why. It helps reduce the illegal kill of geese and it also reduces landowners liability by cutting down on the trespassing by these individuals that would crawl geese if it was legal. It allows geese to feed and rest in an undisturbed manner so that they may remain healthy.

Sincerely,



Beau Barbe

BB/lb

ARCTIC GOOSE JOINT VENTURE ECONOMIC FACT SHEET

Introduction- Canada geese are the most genetically diverse species of bird in North America. The Arctic Goose Joint Venture provides a partnership structure for collecting necessary information on size and harvest of Arctic-nesting geese. Without population and harvest data for each population, generalized Canada goose seasons will cause small populations of long-distance migrants from the Arctic to decline even though large, southern-nesting populations may grow. Threatened populations will necessitate closure of hunting seasons; lack of information of migration routes and timing will require widespread closures. Similar scenarios have already occurred with Canada geese in the Pacific Flyway.

This information is a supplement to the Arctic Goose Joint Venture brochure and request for \$5 million dollars to support this effort.

Importance of the Goose Resource

Participants- An estimated 5 million U.S. hunters (>16 yrs.) hunt migratory birds, take 38.5 million trips and spend 41.7 million days hunting annually.

Expenditures- Hunters spend \$1.1 billion annually hunting migratory birds, 11 percent of the total spent for all types of hunting.

Impacts on Local Economies- Goose hunters spent an estimated \$9.5 million in 1990 in a 4-county area in southern Illinois on goose hunting and related activities.

- Near Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin, gross expenditures by goose watchers and hunters was estimated at \$3.7 million in 1986. These expenditures generated an estimated \$7.4 million in business activity in the counties surrounding Horicon. Gas stations, motels, grocery stores, taverns, drug stores and many small business benefitted from the Canada goose resource.

- In Kent County, Maryland, the goose hunting "business" is the second leading "industry" behind agriculture, generating several million dollars in local support. Many agricultural fields lease for an average of \$15,000 per field for hunting rights.

Importance to Hunters- Canada geese are the second most important waterfowl, behind mallards, to the North American hunter. Hunters harvest approximately one million Canada geese annually.

PROBLEM- If the Arctic Goose Joint Venture is not funded, we can expect serious reductions in recreational opportunities, both for the goose watcher and hunter, severe economic loss in hundreds of communities across the country, potential loss of the unique genetic diversity in Canada geese and a great reduction in the quality of life for millions of Americans who appreciate and rely on North American geese.

BY Lloyd Abadie

week of 3/1/87

ATTORNEY GENERAL UPHOLDS COMMISSION ON GOOSE CREEPING

At long last we have a copy of an opinion (#86-783) from the Attorney General regarding whether the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has statutory authority to enact regulations relative to creeping geese. Readers will recall that the Commission passed a regulation banning this unethical practice and printed it in the hunting regulations booklet only to have a five man legislative oversight committee void the action under the grounds that the Commission lacked statutory authority to make such a rule.

We quote from the opinion: " it is the opinion of this office that the WLFC has the constitutional and statutory power and authority to adopt regulations relative to the comprehensive control and protection of geese, including a regulation prohibiting creeping upon geese."

Perhaps now that it has been vindicated of charges brought about by the legislative oversight committee (Representatives Thibodeaux, Acadia; Hebert, Terrebonne; McKeithen, Caldwell; and Benoit, St. Martin) the Commission will at the very first opportunity adopt the identical resolution it passed last summer.

We suggest that attached to the resolution be a copy of the Attorney General's opinion together with the request that adequate public notice be given regarding when the oversight committee will consider this resolution. There are many sportsmen who would like to attend this meeting.

more

more

more

It's unfortunate that creeping was allowed to take place this last year. The outlaws took advantage of the situation and creeping was widespread throughout the rice belt of southwestern Louisiana. It invariably led to over limit bagging, widespread crippling and more important, is the pinnacle of unethical behavior by shooters. It is akin to shooting a cover of quail on the ground or "shooting fish in a barrel". It is something that a sportsman would not do nor would he condone such action by others.

Hopefully creeping geese will be banned by next hunting season. Who knows, it just might; there is an election year coming up.

-

61 § 2.33

Wildlife Code § 2.33

and on Department owned, managed, leased or controlled lands, a 100 yard restriction shall apply;

(v) It is unlawful for any person to remove fur-bearing mammals from, or to move or disturb in any manner, the traps owned by another person without written authorization of the owner to do so;

(w) It is unlawful for any owner of a dog to knowingly or wantonly allow his or her dog to pursue, harass or kill deer;

(x) It is unlawful for any person to wantonly or carelessly injure or destroy, in any manner whatsoever, any real or personal property on the land of another while engaged in hunting or trapping thereon;

(y) It is unlawful to hunt wild game protected by this Act between sunset and sunrise except that hunting hours between sunset and sunrise may be established by administrative order for fur-bearing mammals, deer, wild turkey and migratory waterfowl;

(z) It is unlawful to take any game bird (excluding wild turkeys), migratory game birds or migratory waterfowl protected by this Act when not flying, except crippled birds otherwise irretrievable;

(aa) It is unlawful to use or possess any device that may be used for tree climbing or cutting, while hunting fur-bearing mammals;

(bb) It is unlawful for any person, except licensed game breeders, pursuant to Section 2.29 to import, carry into or possess alive in this State, any species of wildlife taken outside of this State without obtaining permission to do so from the Director;

(cc) It is unlawful for any person to have in their possession any freshly killed species protected by this Act during the season closed for taking;

(dd) It is unlawful to take any species protected by this Act and retain it alive;

(ee) It is unlawful to possess any rifle while in the field during gun deer season except as provided in Section 2.26 and administrative orders.

This Section shall apply only to those species protected by this Act taken within the State. Any species or any parts thereof, legally taken in and transported from other states or countries may be possessed within the State, except as provided in this Section and Sections 2.35, 2.36 and 3.21.

Nothing contained in this Section shall prohibit the use of bow and arrow.

Nothing contained in this Section shall prohibit the Director from issuing permits to paraplegics or persons physically unable to walk, to shoot or hunt from a standing vehicle, provided that such is otherwise in accord with this Act.

Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit the taking of birds and mammals protected by this Act, except deer, from a boat not camouflaged or disguised to alter its identity or to further provide a place of concealment and not propelled by sail or mechanical power. However, only shotguns not larger than 10 gauge nor smaller than .410 bore loaded with not more than 3 shells of a shot size no larger than BB may be used.

Amended by P.A. 82-783, Art. III, § 30, eff. July 13, 1982; P.A. 83-722, § 2, eff. Sept. 23, 1983.

CHAPTER 61 — WILDLIFE

2.33-1. Shotguns on boats

§ 2.33-1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no person shall place, carry, possess or transport a shotgun on a boat of any type in an area under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation during the period March 1 to May 31, both inclusive.

No State agency shall issue or make any rule, regulation, order or agreement which is in conflict with this Section.

Added by P.A. 81-475, § 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1980.

2.33a. Traps—Illegal methods

§ 2.33a. (a) It is unlawful to fail to visit and remove all animals from traps staked out, set, used, tended, placed or maintained at least once each calendar day.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to set, use, or maintain a leghold trap or one of similar construction on land, that has a jaw spread of larger than 6½ inches (16.6 CM), or a body-gripping trap or one of similar construction having a jaw spread larger than 7 inches (17.8 CM) on a side if square and 8 inches (20.4 CM) if round;

(c) It is unlawful for any person to set, use, or maintain a leghold trap or one of similar construction in water, that has a jaw spread of larger than 7½ inches (19.1 CM), or a body-gripping trap or one of similar construction having a jaw spread larger than 10 inches (25.4 CM) on a side if square and 12 inches (30.5 CM) if round;

(d) It is unlawful to use any trap with saw-toothed, spiked, or toothed jaws;

(e) It is unlawful to destroy, disturb or in any manner interfere with dams, lodges, burrows or feed beds of beaver while trapping for beaver or to set a trap inside a muskrat house or beaver lodge, except that this shall not apply to Drainage Districts who are acting pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.37;

(f) It is unlawful to trap beaver with a leghold trap or one of similar construction having a jaw spread of less than 5½ inches (13.9 CM) or more than 7½ inches (19.1 CM) except that this shall not apply during the open season for trapping muskrats;

(g) It is unlawful to set traps closer than 10 feet (3.05 M) from any hole or den which may be occupied by a game mammal or fur-bearing mammal except that this restriction shall not apply to water sets.

(h) It is unlawful to trap or attempt to trap any fur-bearing mammal with any colony, cage, box, or stove-pipe trap designed to take more than one mammal at a single setting.

(i) It is unlawful for any person to make any set or place any trap or any part thereof including chain, or drag designed to take any fur-bearing mammal protected by this Act during the closed trapping season. Proof that any part of any trap including the trap itself, chain, or drag was placed during the closed trapping season shall be deemed prima facie evidence of a violation of this provision.

(j) It is unlawful to place, set, or maintain any leghold trap or one of similar construction within thirty (30) feet (9.14 m) of bait placed in such a manner or position that it is not completely covered and concealed from sight, except that this shall not apply to underwater sets. Bait shall mean and include any bait composed of mammal, bird, or fish flesh, fur, hide, entrails or feathers.

We run the risk of losing our
federal funding!



BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION
(504) 342-0500
LINC 421-8500

September 19, 1991

DENNIS STINE
COMMISSIONER

Mr. A. Kell McInnis, III
Acting Secretary
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Dear Mr. McInnis:

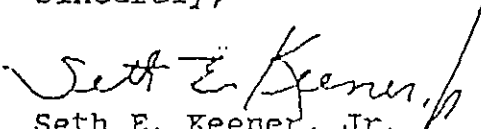
Within the State and the Office of Risk Management, there is a genuine concern in the increase of suits/claims and judgments in the area of false arrest insurance coverage. These occurrences include but are not limited to, excessive force, failure to provide service, failure to train, assault/battery by employee, false arrest/imprisonment, illegal search/seizure, and violations of property rights.

An informal survey of training for State Peace Officers indicates many employees with arrest authority have insufficient or no initial or annual refresher training in the recognized skills required to properly perform their duties. This training is required to reduce the State's exposure to adverse legal judgment.

In order to protect the State, Departments, Agencies and citizens, it is recommended that every State employee with arrest authority, or who executes criminal warrants and is responsible for the prevention or detection of crime, successfully complete a "law enforcement training course". This course must be certified by the Louisiana Council on peace officer standards and training.

It is my understanding, within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, there are some employees which may fall into the category mentioned above. I respectfully request you give favorable consideration to having your employees with arrest authority and authorized to carry firearms attend training outlined in paragraph three above.

Sincerely,


Seth E. Keener, Jr.
State Risk Director

FJC/gbg

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

June 23, 1992

Mr. Seth E. Keener, JR
State Risk Director
Division Of Administration
P.O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

Dear Mr. Keener:

As the new Deputy Secretary of the Louisiana Department Of Wildlife And Fisheries I manage the Law Enforcement Division for the Department. In the brief time that I have thus far assumed this position I have observed the law enforcement role performed by several divisions within the Department (Enforcement Agents, Refuge Wardens and Wildlife Specialists).

As a retired State Representative I always understood that the Department had several law enforcement missions carried out by Enforcement Officers assigned to different Divisions, however I had no idea of the variance of skill certification, initial and continued training and regimented discipline between the officers. After realizing the existence of the multiple standards I have become concerned that the Department may be exposing itself to serious liability claims.

In talking with my staff it was explained to me that your office had already helped to recognize and correct a previous problem addressing minimum training standards or P.O.S.T. certification as a basic requirement. Having recognized this problem and helping to resolve it I was hoping you might lend your expertise in determining whether or not my concerns over the variance of professional certifications existing between law enforcement administered in different divisions are valid.

The irony of my situation is that our Department might have the State's best trained law enforcement officers, assigned in the Enforcement Division and the least trained, assigned in the Game Division.

The question I am most concerned with is whether we are increasing our risk of negative judgments against the Department by having

Page (2)
June 23, 1992
Mr. Seth E. Keener, JR

different standards for officers within the same agency. Also are we further exposing officers not assigned within the Enforcement Division to personal risk by allowing their supervision to be conducted by non-law enforcement personnel.

I'm sure this letter will prompt many questions in your Agency, as it has in mine. Our legal section has recommended that all enforcement officers fall under one section with one operating procedure. As I am sure you can understand this will not be a popular move. Nevertheless, as the manager of the Enforcement Division, I feel I need to seek the opinions of everyone effected by our present procedure to bring all concerns to the table.

I appreciate any assistance you give in this matter. I may be reached at 765-2957.

Sincerely,



Clyde Kimball
Deputy Secretary

CK:CC:crl

①



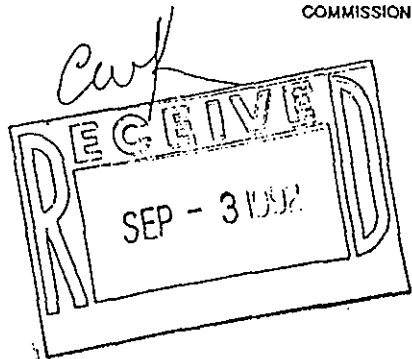
EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT

RAYMOND J. LABORDE
COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

September 1, 1992

Mr. Clyde Kimball
Deputy Secretary
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000



Dear Mr. Kimball:

In reviewing information gathered by attorneys, investigators, claims adjusters and other Risk Management staff, I am of the opinion that the State may be incurring significant liability exposure in the area of enforcement due to inconsistencies in the varying levels of enforcement professionals.

It is our understanding, within your Department, there is more than one classification of enforcement officer, with various degrees of training associated with professional law enforcement. These duties range from one hundred percent (100%) enforcement responsibility down to basically no enforcement responsibility. In order to maintain the State's and your Department's exposure at an acceptable level, this office requests your agency review the posture of enforcement management, responsibilities of supervisory personnel and officers, and training, both initial and recurring. It is our suggestion that consideration be given to the following in an effort to reduce potential liability to the State of Louisiana and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

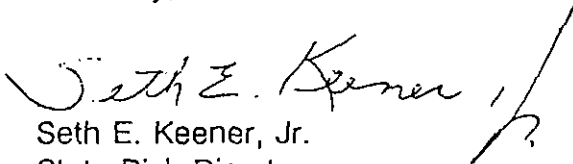
- 1) The authority, management and supervisory responsibility of all employees with enforcement duties be designated under one chain of command in one division.
- 2) All employees assigned enforcement responsibilities must receive the highest level of training available to any one officer.
- 3) One standard and uniform written policy for enforcement functions be developed and implemented for the enforcement authorized employees of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Mr. Clyde Kimball
September 1, 1992
Page 2

We believe, if the above is accomplished, it will provide a more efficient and more clearly defined enforcement organization within your Department and will reduce significantly the exposure to lawsuits and claims. It will provide first class service to the citizens of Louisiana and establish a benchmark for the standard of professional service rendered to the public.

If our office can be of any assistance to you in this or any other matter, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Connors of our Loss Prevention Unit.

Sincerely,


Seth E. Keener, Jr.
State Risk Director

SEK, JR./FJC/sfp

6

STAFF STUDY ON ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES WITHIN THE
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
AUGUST 27, 1992

ACTION PERSON: Frederick Connors, State Loss Prevention Supervisor

PROBLEM:

Within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (DWLF) there are employees designated as "specialists" with Enforcement Officer responsibilities. These employees basically function like members of the Department's Enforcement Division. This situation has caused undue exposure to claims and litigation because of their lack of training, no uniform written policy and procedures and minimal supervision by trained and experienced supervisors.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

DWLF currently has enforcement officers within the Enforcement Division that are highly trained and supervised. They also have personnel known as "specialists" with minimal training who are assigned to other divisions of the Department. This group consists of individuals who are not engaged in the same duties. Their duties range from little or no enforcement responsibility to close to one hundred percent (100%) enforcement responsibility. The Enforcement Division has a written established policy on enforcement procedures that is strictly followed by personnel of the Enforcement Division. The other divisions of DWLF have policies not properly documented creating an unacceptable exposure to the State. The specialists also function within a management environment nearly void of professional law enforcement experience. Claim Number 91G/0907SIMON indicates problems exist within the various divisions in the DWLF to the point of finger pointing during the litigation process (see Tab A), as well as some DWLF personnel helping attorneys who represent plaintiffs suing the State.

DISCUSSION:

It appears from the pending claims/suits now in the Office of Risk Management that several problems exist within the DWLF. These problems should be addressed at the highest level within the Department, because they open the State to adverse court judgments and preclude the efficient law enforcement that is required for the State of Louisiana. Problems that should be considered and evaluated:

- a. Supervision and management of all enforcement personnel within DWLF.
- b. The proper training required for enforcement personnel to perform their duties in a professional and effective manner.

Staff Study - DWLF
August 27, 1992
Page 2

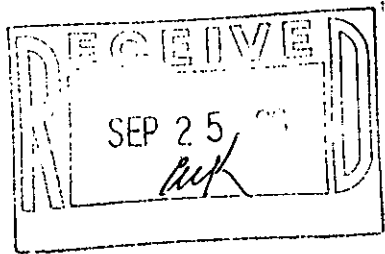
- c. One (1) standard written policy for the Department for all enforcement personnel should be implemented. Presently this does not exist.
- d. One (1) chain of command should be implemented for enforcement personnel to preclude incidents of DWLF personnel from collaborating with plaintiff attorneys.

ASSUMPTION:

A review and revision of the enforcement policy and procedures within the DWLF will curtail the State's exposure to successful suits/claims. Unity of command will enhance the professionalism of the enforcement personnel within the DWLF.

RECOMMENDATION:

The attached letter be forwarded to DWLF suggesting a review of procedures (see Tab X).



State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

September 25, 1996

TO: Johnnie Tarver, Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife
Glenda Tarver, Human Resources Director

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

Please be advised that, I am directing you to immediately begin the process of removing all enforcement powers and duties from those employees in the Office of Wildlife who currently possess enforcement powers and duties, effective October 1, 1996, 6:00 a.m.

Specifically, I need you to immediately take steps to notify these employees of this change in their powers and duties by ensuring delivery of the attached memorandum to each of these employees. Further, I want you to immediately prepare and forward to the Department of Civil Service and any other appropriate agencies an amended job description/job specifications reflecting this change. Further, I need you to advise me immediately as to what other additional steps, if any, are necessary to accomplish this change in job duties relative to these employees.

Until further notice, the above directive shall not apply to those employees who are currently assigned to Rockefeller Refuge.

Please provide me with all copies of correspondence you prepare in furtherance of the above directive and otherwise keep me informed of the status of implementation as well as any problems that you encounter. Thank you.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

September 25, 1996

TO: All Office of Wildlife Employees Having Enforcement Powers

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Jenkins", with a small dot at the end.

Effective October 1, 1996, 6:00 a.m., I am removing and terminating all enforcement powers, duties, and responsibilities for all Office of Wildlife employees who currently have enforcement powers and am transferring all responsibility for enforcement duties to the employees of the Enforcement Division of this Department.

This means that immediately following the effective date and time of this action, you will no longer have legal authority to take enforcement actions on behalf of this Department. You are to, on the effective time and date, cease all enforcement functions and refer any and all enforcement matters or complaints to the Enforcement Division of the Department for appropriate action.

If you witness wildlife or other violations, you may be called upon to be a witness in the criminal proceeding against the offender but the Enforcement Division will have the responsibility for investigation and institution of charges in appropriate situations.

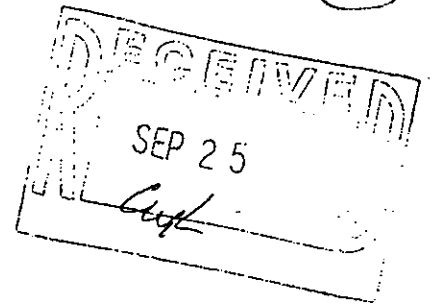
You are being asked to personally sign for receipt of this memorandum to indicate that you have been informed and that you understand that following the effective date and time, (a) you will no longer have legal authority to carry out law enforcement functions and (b) you are directed to cease those functions.

Received by:

Date

RETURN ORIGINAL TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY, OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
An Equal Opportunity Employer

ENFORCEMENT



THE PROBLEM:

The LDWF has a number of different enforcement groups working in different divisions with different management regimes. The varied categories of enforcement personnel are: Enforcement Agents, Conservation Officers, Wildlife Specialists, Fur and Refuge Specialists, and some Biologists who are allowed to do enforcement work, but seldom do. There are a number of difficulties associated with this structure, which are listed below.

1. No uniformity of enforcement procedures and policy.
2. Fragmented chain of command.
3. No coordination of resources.
4. Problems in identification of enforcement officers because of lack of uniform and dress code.
5. Deliberate Indifference - knowing that what we are doing is not correct, having been warned by other agencies of state government (Risk Management), and continuing to operate in a manner that creates undue danger and liability for the agency and the State of Louisiana.
6. Non-Standardized training: creates liability and sometimes dangerous situations for our personnel and the public, because of different standards of enforcement.

7. Possible loss of our authority to "search and seize". (This was tested recently. McHugh v. LDWF The Louisiana Supreme Court upheld our authority but holds us to strict standards for its exercise.)
8. Inefficiencies such as duplicated and non-standard inventory; example: purchases of unsafe boats.
9. Possibility of all of these different classes of enforcement personnel claiming higher GS levels based upon "enforcement" duties, which could lead to millions of dollars of extra expense to the department in the future.
10. Increase of suits/claims and judgments in the area of false arrest. This situation is created by such actions as excessive force, failure to provide service, failure to train, assault/battery, false arrest/imprisonment, illegal search/seizure, violation of property rights, and others.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Eliminate all commissions, except for regular enforcement agents in the enforcement division and those conservation officers and others who are required by certain deeds of donation to be on specific properties full time. Over time, these persons will receive the same training as regular enforcement division agents. The relatively small amount of time spent by the specialists writing tickets will be absorbed by the enforcement division. The specialists will have more time available to perform the major duties for which they were originally hired, although they will still be able to observe activities on the WMA's and report any illegal activity to an

agent. To some extent, that is what is happening today and with the radio equipment soon to be furnished to these specialists, they can be in immediate contact with the enforcement division.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

All of the specialists in question serve under the Office of Wildlife, the appointing authority for which is the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Wildlife. The Assistant Secretary for the Office of Wildlife can determine and assign the duties and responsibilities of the employees of his office in conformity with Civil Service Rules and Regulations. R.S. 36:608C. The Assistant Secretary performs his duties and functions under the direct supervision and control of the Secretary. R.S. 36:608B.

(12)

Furthermore, positive change in the bureaucracy does not come easily! The public and the legislature has demanded more efficiency and accountability in state government through improved management. This management decision was based on a sound business approach to improve the structure of law enforcement within the department.

There is a history to the current structure and I have attached copies of correspondence dating back to 1991. This correspondence brought to light some concerns of the Division of Administration (Risk Management Section) in the area of law enforcement. Also, the Fisheries Division had the same authority until they voluntarily relinquished it in the late 1980s, with no adverse effects.

Also, I should mention there are several financial savings to the taxpayers as a secondary result of this change. The state's insurance premium will be reduced, and the cost of operating state vehicles should be reduced since most of these individuals will no longer qualify for "home storage" of department vehicles.

No one will lose their job, or take a cut in pay, but they will have one less responsibility. Therefore, they can devote full time to doing the maintenance work they were hired to do, which should improve the physical condition on our Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

September 30, 1996

Mr. Seth E. Keener, Jr.
State Risk Director
Division of Administration
P. O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

Dear Mr. Keener:

I am happy to advise you that this administration has complied with your advice and recommendations in the area of law enforcement within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

As you know, correspondence between your office and this department began on September 19, 1991, at which time a genuine concern was brought to light as to the state's liability exposure in the area of law enforcement. After full consideration and review the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has reconsidered its law enforcement efforts. As of October 1, 1996, the department will have one professional division doing law enforcement on a full time basis.

I have attached a copy of Secretary Jenkins' directive, as well as other information for your records.

We are hopeful that the management decision will greatly aid in the reduction of law suits, and losses, against the department and State of Louisiana. We do look forward to a reduction in premium as a result.

15

Mr. Seth E. Kenner, Jr.
Division of Administration
September 30, 1996
Page 2

This administration welcomes any advice your office renders as being important in making this department a better and more efficiently run agency.

Sincerely,



Clyde W. Kimball
Deputy Secretary

Encls.

cc: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary, DWF
Governor M. J. "Mike" Foster
Rep. John Smith, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee
Senator Craig Romero, Chairman, Senate Natural Resources
Committee
Rep. Jerry LeBlanc, Chairman, Appropriations Committee
Senator John Hainkel, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

1995-96
DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
HARVEST REPORT



DEER STUDY PROGRAM
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 *** 1995-96 Louisiana DMAP Data ***

Total Deer Harvest

District	Total Harvest	Antlered Harvest	Antlerless Harvest
1	5,154	2,033	3,121
2	4,371	1,985	2,386
3	1,532	746	786
4	3,661	1,517	2,144
5	1,590	1,810	780
6	4,074	1,879	2,195
7	5,294	2,187	3,107
State	25,676	11,157	14,519

Total Acreage Summary

District	Total Acres	Acres/Deer Harvested	Acres/Antlered Harvested	Acres/Antlerless Harvested
1	415,096	81	204	133
2	412,826	94	208	173
3	208,246	136	279	265
4	230,276	63	152	107
5	305,478	192	377	392
6	317,863	78	169	145
7	369,671	70	119	119
State	2,259,456	88	203	156

Statistics for 1.5 Year Old Bucks

District	Percent of Harvest	Percent Spikes	Average Weight	Average Number Points
1	58	60	121	2.9
2	50	46	122	3.5
3	59	42	117	3.6
4	43	47	133	3.5
5	52	48	110	3.8
6	39	62	114	3.2
7	48	61	113	3.1
State	49	54	119	3.3

1995-96 Louisiana DMAP Data - continued

Statistics for 3.5 Year and Older Bucks

District	Percent Harvest	Average Weight	Average Number Points
1	10	191	8.0
2	14	185	8.0
3	19	162	7.2
4	23	189	7.6
5	8	147	7.3
6	23	156	7.1
7	15	164	7.8
State	16	172	7.6

Percent of Lactating Does for 1.5 and 2.5 Year Olds

District	1.5 Year Old	2.5 Year Old
1	23	70
2	17	64
3	17	58
4	17	61
5	12	38
6	17	51
7	18	60
State	18	60

DMAP Summary Statistics

District	# Clubs	# Acres	Revenue
1	251	414,735	26,837.15
2	183	347,676	21,584.98
3	109	219,417	13,696.10
4	114	243,529	15,091.46
5	109	305,780	19,164.66
6	146	321,304	19,715.15
7	199	355,234	22,576.05
State	1,111	2,207,675	138,655.55*

* The information presented here may have some variation due to availability of data and the statistical methods applied. These numbers were used for accounting purposes.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Deer Management Assistance Program

**** LOUISIANA DMAP PARISHES ****
State Summary

1995-96 Season
Acreage- 2,257,398
Data- 69

TABLE 1. HARVEST SUMMARY

Season	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Archery	623	1,410	2,033
Firearms	10,500	13,036	23,536
Primitive Firearms	41	92	133
Total	11,164	14,538	25,702
Acres/Deer Harvest	202	155	88

TABLE 2. AGE DISTRIBUTION

Age	N	%	N	%
0.5 BUCK	101	1	764	14
0.5 DOE			1,292	25
1.5	3,612	48	2,365	29
2.5	2,567	34	2,708	29
3.5	967	13	1,590	17
4.5	205	3	690	7
5.5	68	1	364	4
6.5	15	0	209	2
7.5	3	0	108	1
8.5+	1	0	74	1
Total	7,539		10,164	

TABLE 3. STATISTICS FOR ADULT BUCKS

Age	Avg	N	Avg	N	Avg	N	Avg	N	Avg	N
	Live Weight		Points		Circumference		Length		Spread	
1.5	118	3574	3.3	3523	2.2	2476	6.6	2877	6.2	2489
2.5	145	2538	6.3	2536	3.3	2161	13.1	2221	10.8	2221
3.5+	169	1241	7.6	1242	3.9	1128	16.2	1146	13.2	1161

State Summary- LOUISIANA DMAP PARISHES

TABLE 4. STATISTICS FOR 1.5 YEAR OLD BUCKS

Number	Percent	Average Live Weight	Average Points
Spikes	1898	54	109
Forked	1626	46	128
Total	3524	100	

* At least one 1.5 year old buck had less than two points.

TABLE 5. STATISTICS FOR ANTLERLESS DEER

Age	Average Live Weight	Percent N	Percent Lactating
0.5 BUCK	65	857	0
0.5 DOE	62	1266	18
1.5	99	2336	59
2.5+	114	5662	5448

TABLE 6. HARVEST HISTORY

Season	Antlered Harvest	Antlerless Harvest	Live Weight of 1.5 Bucks	Average Points of 1.5 Bucks	Percent Spikes
1995-96	11164	14538	118	3.3	54

HUNTING SEASON	ANTLERED	ANTLERLESS	TOTAL	6 MO BUCK	1.5 YR BUCK	2.5 YR BUCK	3.5+ YR BUCK	6 MO DOE	1.5 YR DOE	2.5+ YR DOE	LACTATION 2.5+
1991-92	1,581	2,366	3,947	60.3	122.3	153.2	174.3	54.3	95.3	110.4	70.3
1992-93	1,391	2,664	4,055	61.7	122.6	154.6	165.6	55.9	94.8	110.4	74.6
1993-94	1,481	2,333	3,814	59.2	122.6	156.3	180.8	53.5	97.1	110.4	72.5
1994-95	1,381	2,118	3,499	59.0	119.6	154.3	180.1	54.2	94.3	112.3	67.3
1995-96	1,293	2,498	3,791	57.7	117.0	150.4	177.3	51.8	93.1	110.1	72.7

HUNTING SEASON	ANTLERED	ANTLERLESS	TOTAL	6 MO BUCK	1.5 YR BUCK	2.5 YR BUCK	3.5+ YR BUCK	6 MO DOE	1.5 YR DOE	2.5+ YR DOE	LACTATION 2.5+
1989-90	7,730	9,132	16,862	64.8	121.5	151.6	163.4	61.3	99.7	114.5	57.3
1990-91	7,911	9,046	16,957	67.5	120.9	153.9	168.0	63.5	100.1	116.4	62.6
1991-92	8,232	10,750	18,982	67.7	119.8	147.9	167.0	61.7	99.8	114.4	61.4
1992-93	7,396	8,714	16,110	67.1	124.3	150.8	170.2	64.0	102.6	115.2	67.7
1993-94	10,198	12,455	22,653	64.9	120.7	150.3	168.6	62.3	99.6	114.5	61.5
1994-95	10,982	13,471	24,453	66.6	116.9	148.2	172.5	62.1	98.3	114.0	59.0
1995-96	11,164	14,538	25,702	64.9	117.6	145.3	168.6	62.2	99.3	113.6	59.0

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 14:52 Wednesday, September 4, 1996 1
Male Harvest History STATEWIDE DMAP

HUNTING SEASON	ANTLERED	ANTLERLESS	TOTAL	AVG WT 6 MO BUCK	AVG WT 1.5 YR BUCK	AVG WT 2.5 YR BUCK	AVG WT 3.5+ YR BUCK	AVG WT BEAM	AVG WT BEAM 3.5+ YR BUCK	SPREAD	SPREAD 3.5+ YR BUCK
1989-90	7,730	9,132	16,862	64.8	121.5	151.6	163.4	9.6	10.9	11.4	13.0
1990-91	7,911	9,046	16,957	67.5	120.9	153.9	168.0	13.0	15.3	11.3	13.0
1991-92	8,232	10,750	18,982	67.7	119.8	147.9	167.0	12.7	16.0	10.9	13.4
1992-93	7,396	8,714	16,110	67.1	124.3	150.8	170.2	12.9	16.1	11.0	13.5
1993-94	10,198	12,455	22,653	64.9	120.7	150.3	168.6	13.2	15.7	11.2	13.3
1994-95	10,982	13,471	24,453	66.6	116.9	148.2	172.5	13.2	16.5	11.0	13.5
1995-96	11,164	14,538	25,702	64.9	117.6	145.3	168.6	13.1	16.2	10.8	13.2

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 14:52 Wednesday, September 4, 1996 2
Male Harvest History - Antler Development STATEWIDE - DMAP

HUNTING SEASON	ANTLERED	ANTLERLESS	TOTAL	POINTS 2.5 YR	POINTS 3.5+ YR	CIRCUM 2.5 YR	CIRCUM 3.5+ YR	BEAM 2.5 YR	BEAM 3.5+ YR	SPREAD 2.5 YR	SPREAD 3.5+ YR
1989-90	7730	9132	16862	6.4	7.0	8.0	3.5	9.6	10.9	11.4	13.0
1990-91	7911	9046	16957	6.5	7.5	3.4	4.0	13.0	13.8	11.3	12.0
1991-92	8232	10750	18982	6.3	7.6	3.3	4.0	12.7	16.0	10.9	13.4
1992-93	7396	8714	16110	6.5	7.5	3.3	4.0	12.9	16.1	11.0	13.5
1993-94	10198	12455	22653	6.6	7.5	3.3	3.9	13.2	15.7	11.2	13.3
1994-95	10982	13471	24453	6.5	7.6	3.3	4.0	13.2	16.5	11.0	13.5
1995-96	11164	14538	25702	6.3	7.6	3.3	3.9	13.1	16.2	10.8	13.2

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 14:52 Wednesday, September 4, 1996 3
Female Harvest History STATEWIDE DMAP

HUNTING SEASON	ANTLERED	ANTLERLESS	TOTAL	AVG WT 6 MO DOE	AVG WT 1.5 YR DOE	AVG WT 2.5+ YR DOE	LACTATION 1.5 YR DOE	LACTATION 2.5+ YR DOE
1989-90	7,730	9,132	16,862	61.3	99.7	114.5	16.7	57.3
1990-91	7,911	9,046	16,957	63.5	100.1	116.4	16.6	62.6
1991-92	8,232	10,750	18,982	61.7	99.8	114.4	20.4	61.4
1992-93	7,396	8,714	16,110	64.0	102.6	115.2	20.9	67.7
1993-94	10,198	12,455	22,653	62.3	99.6	114.5	18.5	61.5
1994-95	10,982	13,471	24,453	62.1	98.3	114.0	15.9	59.0
1995-96	11,164	14,538	25,702	62.2	99.3	113.6	17.5	59.0

History of DMAP

YEAR	# CLUBS	TOTAL ANTLERLESS HARVEST
81/82	129	2,636
82/83	272	5,109
83/84	368	6,336
84/85	399	5,626
85/86	502	6,330
86/87	691	8,146
87/88	833	10,353
88/89	838	10,156
89/90	760	9,132 Fee Program Initiated
90/91	677	9,046
91/92	725	10,701
92/93	848	11,787
93/94	994	12,453
94/95	1,127	13,485
95/96	1,111	14,519

1997		February			1997	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 30-SEP-1996

CURRENT MONTH
09/01/1996 TO 09/30/1996FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/1996 TO 09/30/1996INCEPTION TO DATE
09/30/1996ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION

# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
41	\$7,185.00	113	\$84,441.77	3,171	\$2,159,936.03
1	\$25.00	1	\$25.00	70	\$1,750.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	331	\$269,865.45-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	148	\$71,951.21

RESTITUTION ASSESSED

29	\$2,259.96-	91	\$13,764.48-	2,011	\$299,480.14-
24	\$1,326.58-	78	\$8,058.23-	1,329	\$147,655.50-
2	\$49.60	7	\$85.47	79	\$1,569.13
1	\$48.70	3	\$84.47	34	\$7,109.90
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$18,449.45-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$10,601.49
0	\$0.00	1	\$515.60	17	\$75,953.27
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$36.75
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$35.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	12	\$9.37-

0	\$0.00	1	\$0.00	16	\$5,913.25
0	\$0.00	3	\$20,443.19-	46	\$33,181.11-
0	\$0.00	2	\$550.34-	204	\$259,535.53-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	6	\$1,399.24-
0	\$0.00	3	\$293.40-	15	\$20,056.34-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$97.80-

** TOTAL OUTSTANDING

923 \$1,285,126.10

FOOTNOTE:

1	\$20.00	3	\$60.00	49	\$10,900.67
0	\$5.00	0	\$15.00	0	\$2,725.16
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00 *

AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN	0	1 - 30 DAYS	CAN NOT BE INVOICED	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																															
\$0.00	\$485.55	1 - 30 DAYS	\$37.50	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																															
\$23,832.80	\$17,846.85	61 - 90 DAYS	\$2,704.93	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																											
\$58,794.20	\$8,459.00	91 - 120 DAYS	\$11,819.66	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																												
\$1,120.10	\$44,323.38	121 - 150 DAYS	\$3,664.77	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																				
\$126,878.87	\$48,184.12	151 - 180 DAYS	\$13,287.14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																									
\$3,316.25	\$3,316.25	181 - 365 DAYS	\$936,444.77	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800

** TOTAL AGING

399 \$333,241.12 ** TOTAL AGING 923 \$1,285,126.10

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

NOV-96	RULE - Recreational Harvest for Southern Flounder
	RULE - 1997 Spring Turkey Season
	RULE - Lake Louis Commercial Fish Seines
JAN-97	RULE - Special Bait Dealer's Permit

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

96-227

9/27/96

OCTOBER WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING SET

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will conduct its next regular meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3, 1996, in the Louisiana Room of Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge.

The meeting is open to the public. The agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of minutes of Sept. 9, 1996.
3. Presentation by the Natural Registry Program.
4. Discussion of brush control project at Catahoula Lake.
5. Discussion of Red River WMA lottery waterfowl hunt.
6. Public comments on 1997 spring turkey hunting season.
7. Ratification of membership of Disabled Hunter Review Board and Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee.
8. Goose creeping.
9. Enforcement and Aviation reports — September.
10. Division reports.
11. Set February 1997 meeting date.
12. Public comments.
13. Adjourn.

-30-

This public document was printed at a cost of \$2.94. Three hundred copies of this document were printed in this first and only printing. This document was printed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 to provide timely information about department programs for numerous interest groups and the general public. This document was printed in accordance with the printing standards for state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

September 24, 1996

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____

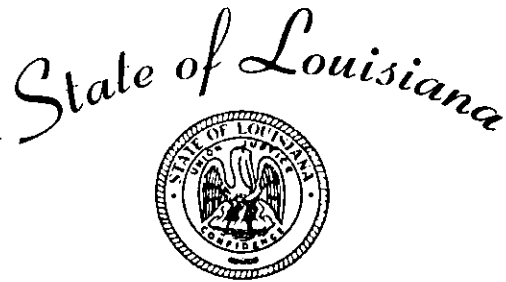


AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Monday, October 3, 1996, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

→ Thursday

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of September 9, 1996
3. Presentation by the Natural Registry Program
4. Brush Control Project at Catahoula Lake
5. Red River WMA Lottery Waterfowl Hunt
6. Public Comments on 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season Proposals
7. Ratify Membership of Disabled Hunter Review Board and Ratify Membership of Disabled Hunter Oversight Committee
8. Goose Creeping
9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/September
10. Division Reports
11. Set February 1997 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjourn



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

September 24, 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: October Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at **10:00 A.M.** on **Thursday, October 3, 1996**, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following will be on the agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of September 9, 1996
2. Presentation by the Natural Registry Program

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

3. Brush Control Project at Catahoula Lake
4. Red River WMA Lottery Waterfowl Hunt
5. Public Comments on 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season Proposals
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WINTON VIDRINE

7. Goose Creeping
8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/September

Page 2
Commission Meeting
September 24, 1996

9. Division Reports
 - a) Cocaho Minnows
 - b) DMAP
10. Set February 1997 Meeting Date
11. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

C: Clyde Kimball
Fred Prejean
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Don Puckett
John Medica
Division Chiefs

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Glynn Carver

Chairman

FAX# _____

FROM Susan Hawkins

RE: October Commission Agenda

Please review the attached and let me know if it is okay.

Thank you. /

DATE: September 23, 1996

TIME SENT _____

FOR INFORMATION CALL (504) 765-2806

OUR FAX # (504) 765-2607

PAGES TO FOLLOW 2

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: October Commission Meeting Agenda

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OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

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OFFICE OF FISHERIES

WINTON VIDRINE

7. Goose Creeping
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 - a) Cocaho Minnows
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10. Set February 1997 Meeting Date
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JHJ:sch

C: Clyde Kimball
Fred Prejean
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Don Puckett
John Medica
Division Chiefs

Tummy - Get
this to Susan
tomorrow -
Visit with Mr.
Turner about
agenda see if
he has any problems?
HB

KELLY Temporary
Services

State of Louisiana



Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

September 4, 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, and Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries

FROM: James H. *JH*Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - October 3, 1996

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Wednesday, September 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, October 3rd Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on October 3rd. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
James Manning

*Wildlife Division
Agenda Items*

- 1) *Brush Control Project at
Catahoula Lake - H. Bateman*
- 2) *Disabled Hunter Review Board/Dis. Hunt Oversight Comm.
Vote on these again - see Don Puckett to see what
to call this item.*
- 3) *Lorrey Waterfowl Hunt - Red River WMA - M. Brown*
- 4) *Public Comment - Turkey Pampheet*

Footnote:
Division Report
DMAF - Dave Moreland

To: Tommy Prickett
From: Don Rickett

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA

October

~~September~~ 9, 1996
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of August 8, 1996
3. Rule Ratification - Physically Challenged Hunter Program
- Tommy Prickett
4. *Ratify membership of* Establish Disabled Hunter Review Board - Tommy Prickett
" " and " " *Committee*
5. Rule Ratification - Waddill Wildlife Refuge - James Manning
6. Rule Ratification - Timken Wildlife Management Area - James Manning
7. Declaration of Emergency - Trapping Season Dates - James Manning
8. Declaration of Emergency - Delay in Opening Oyster Season in Calcasieu Lake & West Cove - Ron Dugas
9. Notice of Intent - Special Bait Dealer's Permit - Brandt Savoie
10. Set January 1997 Meeting Date
11. Public Comments
12. Adjourn

→ Add "or his designee"
after Vidrine & Prickett

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

September 4, 1996

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Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
James Manning

E.N.F. Will haul
(1) ENF. Monthly report
(2) Goose Creeping

W. U.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

September 4, 1996

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Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
James Manning

RECEIVED

SEP 10 1996

INLAND FISHERIES
DIVISION

Dear Susan:

*I have no
agenda items.
Thanks*

Bennie

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
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M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

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Karen Foote ✓
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
James Manning

9-18-96

John

No agenda items at
this time.

Kan

RECEIVED
SEP 10 1996
MISSISSIPPI DIVISION

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
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September 4, 1996

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